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THE PLANTATION INDUSTRY AND ITS CRITICS.

By W. N. C. Belgrave.

THERE has been of late years a considerable volume of criticism in connection with the scientific side of rubber planting. Such criticism shows a healthy interest in the industry and much has been stimulating and valuable. Unfortunately, there has been a certain amount based on incomplete or faulty information. Criticism of the latter class follows certain stereotyped lines; first there is recognition of good research work done locally, then complaints are made of the neglect of Government or the industry to provide larger staffs of research workers, the efforts of the General Rubber Company in Sumatra are held up for admiration, and lastly, the coffee disaster in Ceylon is mentioned.

It may be interesting to see how far such criticism is justified. First as to apathy. Even Home critics should know or be able to ascertain that the present strength of the research staff of the Agricultural Department does not represent the maximum effort of Government, but has been reduced to its low level by war conditions. Fortunately, material is at hand which enables a comparison to be made between past efforts and future needs, as set forth by a competent and independent authority. Dr. Butler, Imperial Mycologist of India, was recently asked by Government to report on the Agricultural Department, Federated Malay States. In the course of his report, a considered scheme is put forward for rubber research in the future which as far as it concerns numbers of workers required met with cordial approval.

This scheme requires, *inter alia*, five mycologists, four chemists, two economic botanists for breeding work, etc., and one plant physiologist, as desirable for the future. Now the actual scientific staff sanctioned for the Peninsula in 1914 was: mycologists, Government 3, of whom at least 2 would have given their whole time to rubber, private 3 + 2 part-time men—total, say 7; chemists, Government 5 + private 3 + 1 half-time man—say $8\frac{1}{2}$; economic botanist, Government—1 part-time. In 1918—before Dr. Butler's report—mycologists, Government 3 + private 5 = 8. Chemists, Government 5 + private 4 = 9.

In 1919 there were sanctioned additional appointments of physiologist—Government 1, and economic botanist entirely for rubber 1; mycologist, Government 1, i.e., the numbers sanctioned have been for some time at least equal to those thought necessary for the future by Dr. Butler and others and do not indicate neglect of scientific work by Government or the industry. Whether the men available were used to the best advantage is beside the point under consideration but it may be noted that as far back as 1917, endeavours have been made by all parties towards getting better organization, especially in the direction of relieving research workers of patrol duties.

While great credit is due to the General Rubber Co. for their liberal provision of scientific staff, comparison of the rubber plantations of Malaya with those of one company is bound to be misleading. There is a certain minimum requirement for all research stations large or small, and beyond that the ratio of additional staff required to additional acreage is very low and comparisons based on costs per acre are valueless.

Ignorance of provision made and of future schemes may be to some extent excusable in Home critics, but anyone who has spent even a short time here should show at least a slight acquaintance with the facts. Unfortunately, Professor Baker, who has recently given his views on research in Malaya,[1] does not appear to have taken advantage of his stay in the Straits Settlements to make himself acquainted with conditions in the Federated Malay States and in many respects gives a more misleading view of the situation than usual. Professor Baker's arguments are based on the discovery by himself while in the Straits Settlements of several hitherto undescribed fungi which appear to have been growing as saprophytes but which, as he points out, may be or may become parasites. His opening statements are worthy of quotation.

"It has long been a commonly observed fact in the history of many crops that at first, with only small and isolated plantings, there is likely to be little if any trouble with diseases and pests. This has often resulted in giving planters ill-founded hopes and false assurances as to the future. As the area planted is extended and large sections of country become occupied with the crop, endemic fungi and insects gradually become adapted to it and others slowly filter in from abroad. The latter occurrence is quite inevitable in new countries since the people of such countries cannot be convinced of the necessity of strict plant quarantine regulations efficiently administered, until driven to it by bitter experience—too late.

"Hevea is a conspicuous case in point. A large number of fungi have become adapted to it in oriental plantings, and so far as production alone is concerned, fungi will constitute the limiting factor. It is perfectly characteristic of human experience and human failings, that planters and Government administrators cannot be expected to become fully alive to the problems involved and the necessities of the case, until staggering losses have been suffered, or until wholesale infection has occurred."

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[1] Hevea V. Fungi. *The Garden's Bulletin, Straits Settlements*, Vol. II, 4th July, 1919, No. 4.

Now this can only mean

(1) that Hevea is a conspicuous case of a crop introduced into a new country, which owing to lack of quarantine regulations has suffered severely from imported diseases;

(2) that our planters and administrators have only awakened as the result of staggering losses or wholesale infections—or alternatively—that they are not yet awake.

With regard to (1) Professor Baker would be hard pressed to find a single case of damage to Hevea from imported diseases, and possibly would be surprised to hear that there are quarantine laws in existence, which are at present in force against India and America.

The second conclusion is equally unjustified. Professor Baker would probably be just as incapable of instancing any "staggering losses" or "wholesale infection" (from fungi), while as suggested above our planters and administrators can scarcely be accused of a condition of catalepsy. Again Professor Baker states quite definitely that "fungi will constitute the limiting factor" as far as production alone is concerned. It would be instructive to know how this is arrived at; it is of course possible, but most mycologists with local experience will agree that there are at present no signs of such limitation. It is worthy of note that Professor Baker omits even remotely to admit the presence or possibility of other limiting factors—an omission which becomes more striking when it is realized that Professor Baker's Chair is one of Agronomy, and not of Mycology. There is one very obvious limiting factor—soil wash—at present in operation to a serious extent which must surely have struck our critic, but no mention is made of it.

In the latter part of the article, plant sanitation is strongly (and rightly) recommended; exception must, however, be taken to the implications that sanitation is non-existent, and has not previously been recommended. Had Professor Baker consulted the literature issued by the Agricultural Department he would have found plant sanitation advocated in and out of season for years past; had he visited the Federated Malay States, he would have found the majority of estates vigorously engaged in measures of sanitation; had he consulted the Federated Malay States Department of Agriculture he would gladly have been told of work on the supposed saprophytes of Hevea, interrupted by war exigencies. But Professor Baker did none of these things, and has in consequence written a distinctly misleading article.

May the present writer be allowed to say that the planting industry as a whole is fully alive to the necessity for research work and to the dangers of disease, and to suggest that the time has passed when strictures on apathy and jeremiads on the effects of epidemics in "the slums of the plant world" can have any good results in Malaya or do anything but harm at Home. Epidemics may occur, and may equal in destructiveness the celebrated Coffee Rust epidemic, but it will not be for want of forethought or attention on the part of those responsible for the well-being of the industry.[1]

[1] NOTE.—In this article only the work of the Agricultural Department has been dealt with. Reference to private mycologists has been omitted since their publications are not available to the public, and Professor Baker cannot be expected to have read them; although he must have heard that such workers existed.

INVESTIGATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, 1918.

By B. J. Eaton.

Rubber Researches.

THE principal chemical work carried out during the year under review has been a continuation of the researches on the variability of rubber. In this connection nearly 700 specimens of rubber were investigated which included nearly 600 experimental samples prepared at the Department for research purposes.

The results obtained confirmed previous results and theories based on these results.

The principal investigations under this heading were in connection with (1) the effect of alum salts on rubber, (2) the effect of oils on rubber, (3) the effect of storage on raw rubber.

Effects of alum salts.—Previous work carried out by the writer at the Department had shown that commercial alum (potash alum), when used as a coagulant, has a deleterious effect on the rubber produced. It might be stated here that alum has been used to a considerable extent during the last three to four years, almost entirely by small holders, chiefly Malay and Chinese, for the coagulation of *Hevea* latex. This has arisen chiefly owing to the high cost of acetic acid, and probably also on account of the difficulties experienced by small holders in obtaining acetic acid, especially in cases where their holdings were situated some distance from the market.

Owing to complaints received from buyers, especially for the American rubber market, the writer's opinion was invited and a special note contributed to the *Tin and Rubber Journal* on the subject, drawing attention to the effect of alum on rubber, both in respect of its effect in retarding the rate of vulcanization and thus introducing another variable factor and also its effect on the tensile properties of the vulcanized rubber.

Further investigations were carried out with specially pure potash alum and also with other aluminium salts, e.g., soda alum, ammonia alum and aluminium sulphate. These salts were found to have similar effects and must therefore be discouraged as coagulants.

These remarks apply also to proprietary or patent coagulants containing alum, of which there is or has been at least one on the market here.

At the request of the Advisory Committee of the Agricultural Department, a leaflet or pamphlet on the subject was prepared by the writer and translated into Malay, Chinese and Tamil and distributed. (More recently, a clause has been introduced in the Rubber Dealers' Enactment (Enactment No. 5 of 1919) by means of which the Government has power to make rules prohibiting the use of any treatment or method of preparation of rubber found to be undesirable.)

The writer would also like to issue again a note of warning against the use of sulphuric acid as a coagulant, including such substances as sodium bisulphate (nitre cake) which could be purchased cheaply during the war, owing to the fact that it was a bye-product. Sodium bisulphate as a coagulant is essentially sulphuric acid, and would almost certainly have similar effects as a coagulant.

A warning should be issued particularly against the treatment of sheet rubber by soaking in solutions of sulphuric acid after machining.

The writer has recently examined some excellent samples of pale unsmoked sheet rubber, believed to be prepared by such treatment. Unfortunately, the excellent appearance does not infer, in this case, excellent quality but very inferior quality. The results of tests on this rubber made by the writer have been confirmed also by a manufacturer's report from England.

Effect of other chemicals.—Owing to the fact that certain chemicals, when used as coagulants, were found to retard the rate of vulcanization of the rubber, further experiments were carried out, in which such chemicals were added directly to the dry prepared rubber, on the mixing machine, immediately before vulcanization, in order to ascertain whether these substances behaved as negative catalysts (retarding agents) or whether they behaved as bactericidal agents. The results of these experiments showed that the substances experimented with, which included molybdic acid, phospho-tungstic acid, boric acid and tannic acid, directly retard the rate of vulcanization, when added to rubber mixings. It is intended to extend this investigation to many other substances.

Effect of oils on rubber.—The action of various oils and greases on raw rubber was investigated, from the point of view of the vulcanized product, in connection with the occasional contamination of raw rubber with oil from bearings of rubber machines, due usually to carelessness on the part of the cooly. It should be pointed out however that, in the experiments carried out, the oil or grease was added to the rubber just before incorporating with sulphur on the mixing machine and that the vulcanization was carried out within a few days, subsequent to the addition, so that the oil would not have had any prolonged action on the rubber.

One interesting feature emerged from this investigation. It was found that the grease used in the bearings of the machines in our own factory when added to the rubber, accelerated the rate of cure. On testing the grease it was found to be markedly alkaline and is probably a "recovered" grease. The acceleration in rate of cure is therefore probably due to the alkali present. In view of the deleterious action of alkalis on raw rubber, previously shown in this laboratory, this constitutes another reason why contamination of the rubber with grease from bearings should be avoided.

Effect of storage of raw rubber.—During the last six months of the year, especially in view of the shipping crisis and difficulty of export of raw rubber, an investigation was commenced on numerous samples stored in the laboratory under normal conditions, i.e., without any special precautions, except against exposure to direct sun light, or exposure to exceptional dampness causing mildewing, etc. This

work is still being continued and definite conclusions have not been reached, since the results obtained on the stored rubbers have not yet been compared thoroughly with those obtained on the samples when only a few weeks old. The opinion was expressed by the writer that, as far as intrinsic quality was concerned, the deterioration of raw rubber stored under suitable conditions in this country, for a period of six months to one year or possibly longer is small or possibly negligible. There is no doubt however that the market value would be affected from the point of view of appearance, since pale crêpe darkens considerably on keeping and, unless care is taken to keep the rubber very dry and well ventilated, spot disease will attack pale crêpes and mildews will attack smoked sheet.

More recent experiments on samples stored for two to three years or longer appear to show deterioration in quality, especially in the case of crêpe and this is believed to be due to surface oxidation and hardening, which would be excessive in crêpe, owing to the large amount of surface per unit weight. The rate of vulcanization also appears to be affected and to be generally slower. A number of four year old samples of "slab" rubber however, left in slab form, have been tested recently and found to be of excellent quality and similar in rate of vulcanization to samples crêped and tested about a fortnight after coagulation.

There is little doubt in my opinion that the best method of storing dry raw rubber is to compress it into solid blocks or masses, since the deterioration which does take place is due to surface exposure. Rubber containing moisture, such as "slab" rubber would not be affected like dry rubber.

Further work on the sulphur content and changes during the ageing of vulcanized rubber was carried out by Mr. Day at my request. A full account of the researches on rubber up to about April, 1918, is contained in Bulletin No. 27 "The Preparation and Vulcanization of Plantation Para Rubber," which was published by the Department and ready for issue towards the end of the year.

Soil Investigations.

Routine examinations of soils were continued and a number of specially bad pockets or areas of soils on different estates were investigated. In some cases, an ordinary chemical examination revealed nothing to account for the poor quality of such areas, but generally the quality could be attributed to extreme physical or mechanical characteristics of the soil, i.e., the soils were either very heavy clays so situated that drainage was difficult, or light sandy soils, unable to retain moisture, especially owing to lack of organic matter.

A commencement is being made on the biological investigation of soils, which, it is firmly believed, will yield the most fruitful and useful results in connection with tropical soils, especially in a damp climate such as Malaya.

During the year, 83 soils were examined; these included three padi soils, and nine miscellaneous samples, the remainder being rubber soils. The samples were from the following States: Perak—9, Selangor—45, Negri Sembilan—10, Johore—5.

A large tract of land near Jarantut (Pahang) was also inspected and the soil investigated in connection with the selection of sites for large scale experimental farms.

Other special investigations.—An investigation of the ash and potash content of the water hyacinth was carried out by Mr. F. W. F. Day, Assistant Agricultural Chemist, and the results published in the *Agricultural Bulletin.* The results confirmed and amplified those obtained at the Imperial Department of Agriculture at Pusa, India.

An investigation on the oil content and keeping qualities of Para rubber seed oil was also completed by Mr. F. W. F. Day early in the year and the results published in the *Agricultural Bulletin.* This report has attracted considerable attention and demands for this issue of the bulletin have been large. A revised reprint, embodying the report received on the oil from England is being prepared.

Manufacture of coconut oil.—Much time has been spent in the consideration and working out of schemes for the erection of co-operative coconut oil mills in this country. Articles in the *Agricultural Bulletin* published during the present year (1919) refer particularly to this problem.

There is little doubt that a properly worked scheme on a large scale would be of great benefit to the coconut industry of the country.

NOTES ON THE WORK OF THE AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTOR, KUALA PILAH, FOR THE YEAR 1918.

By D. H. Grist.

PADI, being one of the most important crops grown by the Malays, has been selected for work of an experimental nature towards the improvement of the varieties, and the system of cultivation. From State to State, and almost, from district to district, the varieties under cultivation differ, as does also the method of raising the crop. For these reasons, entirely separate experiments have been conducted at Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan,—as representing the "sawah" or wet cultivation, and at Pekan, Pahang, as being typical of the "tenggala" or ploughed-land system. To appreciate the problems with which we are faced, and as introductory to a statement of the progress of the experiments, a brief description of the two systems is necessary.

The "Sawah" or Wet Padi Cultivation.

The land, divided into the well-known squares or "lopak," is chankolled or ploughed in the early part of the year, and all water-ways, dams and water-wheels repaired and put in order before the ploughing commences. The nursery is then made, being situated either in the "sawah"—a wet nursery, or on dry land. The former is prepared by ploughing or chankolling, rendering the mud soft and stamping under or drawing off all weeds. A strong fence is erected around the nursery. The dry nursery is prepared by hoeing off all weeds from a piece of land, situated in the "kampong," that has been uncultivated for some years. The ground on which the padi seed is sown is therefore quite hard. The nursery is suitably fenced. Forty days before the planting out into the "sawah," the nursery—be it wet or dry is broadcasted with padi seed. In the case of the dry nursery, the seed is immediately covered with about an inch of fine soil. Previous to the planting of the nursery, the padi seed is soaked in water for one night and if intended for a wet nursery, kept damp for another night before planting; if for a dry nursery, it is broadcasted the morning following the soaking. After 40 days in the nursery, the seedlings are pulled up, the roots washed in water, the top few inches of leaves cut off, and the seedlings transplanted in the sawah, which has again been chankolled, made smooth with rollers, and drained of excess of water. From two to six seedlings are taken at a time and forced into the mud with the hand. The distance between such clumps of seedlings is from 8 to 14 inches.

The time that must elapse before harvesting varies with the variety of padi, but may be taken as being about six months for hard grained padi, and five months for soft grained padi,—calculated from the date of transplanting. Harvesting is accomplished with a "tuai," a small knife about two inches long with which each ear of padi is cut separately,—a laborious task. It may here be mentioned that attempts of introducing more rapid means of harvesting have met with scant success, the use of the "tuai" being involved in superstitious fears.

The "Tenggala" System of Padi Cultivation.

"Tenggala" padi cultivation, as practiced by the Malays in Pahang, presents a far more scientific method of cultivation than does that described above. The land is ploughed, crossed ploughed, and again ploughed, raked once, padi seed broadcasted and raked in. Harvesting commences about six months later, and is generally done with a sickle. During the period of growth, the padi is generally subjected to the south-west monsoon floods. A padi that has to undergo such extremes as deep flooding and long drought must indeed be hardy. "Tenggala" padi land will produce about four successive crops of padi, and is then fallowed for a period of several years. In the experiments at Pekan, a test is being made of the cropping possibilities of this class of padi land.

In both the wet and "tenggala" systems of padi cultivation the yields obtained are extremely disappointing. For wet padi in the Kuala Pilah district the average is about 200 gantangs (gallons) per acre; for tenggala padi the average is just under 100 gantangs per acre. The danger, therefore, is that with such poor yields, the natives may abandon the cultivation of this most necessary crop in favour of other crops that will be more remunerative.

Attempts at the improvement of yields were commenced in 1915 at Kuala Pilah, and in 1916 in Pekan. The account here given of this work can but review the nature of the problems and the progress of the work.

Wet Padi Experiments.

A review of the varieties of padi cultivated throughout the Peninsula proved that there were many hundreds. A collection of these varieties was made by the writer and others, and a selection of 250 varieties put down at Kuala Pilah in 1915-16. From that time to the present this number has been reduced to some 40 varieties on which selection work and yield tests have been conducted. The year 1918 was unfavourable for these tests owing to an exceptional attack of rats, but from the 1917 crops two varieties were isolated which gave good yields, and appeared to be suitable to the district. Since then, these varieties have been grown in bulk, and the seed distributed to padi growers in Negri Sembilan and Pahang. The results have been gratifying. Padi Lebat is the first of these padi. The average yield on the experimental plots was 450 gantangs per acre. Padi Pontianak gave an even higher yield, but the straw is less stable. The two varieties have been distributed and grown by many Malays in the past year. Other favourite varieties have been Padi Radin Che Mak, notable for stiffness of straw, and heavy grain, and Padi Serendah, a dwarf padi of good yielding habits.

The cultivation and manuring of padi are the subjects of experiments. A comparison of the use of dry and wet nurseries for padi tends to show that a dry nursery, if well cultivated and manured, is slightly superior to a wet nursery, and much safer, and the cultivation of the dry nursery gives a very much larger crop than the dry nursery as prepared according to local custom. This is an important result, and, subject to verification, might become a factor of great importance towards increasing the output of rice on areas already under cultivation.

The manuring of the "sawah" has failed to give any decided results to date. It would appear that phosphates are the limiting factor in the growth of the padi. In the experiments conducted, and to be repeated in 1919, nitrate of soda, sulphate of potash, sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate are being used. It is more probable that for native practice the result will be that heavy manuring of the nursery, which can be done at small cost, will be recommended; as the results are more commensurate with the outlay, and furthermore the outlay in the latter case is but small.

"Tenggala" Padi Experiments.

The problems connected with varieties, the improvement by selection and the isolation of pure lines are the subject of work on this class of padi. A collection of varieties has been made, on which the above work is carried out. There are over 20 varieties on the trial grounds at Pekan. The seed as received from the local growers was so mixed and cross-bred, that the isolation of the varieties is incomplete, and consequently the work of distribution still remains to be done. The Pekan experiments are concerned with variety tests, rotation experiments, drilling trials as against broadcasting of the seed, and the introduction of catch crops and rotation crops. A rotation system has been started, allowing for possibly three padi crops in six years. Drilling has been found to be little better than broadcasting. This is possibly due to the coolies' lack of knowledge of the system.

The Milling Quality of Malay Padi.

While of first importance is the work on varieties and cultivation, the value of the produce, as judged by the milling quality and colour is a factor to be considered. The Malay mills his padi by means of a "lessong," the action of which is that of a mortar and pestle. With this method it is found that a great variation exists between different varieties of padi in respect to the number of grains that are broken, and also in the amount of rice obtained from the padi. It would be premature to state the details of the results so far obtained, but the importance of the work can be judged from the fact that the variation in respect to rice to padi is from 51 per cent. to 71 per cent., and of broken to unbroken grain from 34 per cent. to 85 per cent.

Distribution of Padi.

The distribution of selected padi seed to Malays is held to be of great importance. The whole of the 1917-18 crop from the Kuala Pilah trial grounds was so distributed through the District Officers, and the demand for the 1918-19 crop has exceeded the supply. It cannot be doubted that the seed has been appreciated by the recipients.

Instructional Work.

The practical application of experimental work is the aim of the Department, and with the help of other officers, progress has been made in this respect. With the present food shortage, and the desirability of inducing all nationalities to cultivate cereal and pulse crops to replace—in part at least—the rice consumption, it was

advisable that the Malays should be given every opportunity of acquiring some insight into the possibilities of the various crops recently introduced into this country. With this object in view, the visit of Malays to the Government Plantations was started. An account of this has been given in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Federated Malay States*, Vol. VI, No. 12, and also in Vol. VI, No. 4. It is only necessary here to state that in the opinion of those most intimately connected with this work, these visits have been of great value, and it is proposed to extend the visits to the Malays of other States.

During the year, visits have been paid to most of the mukims of Negri Sembilan, and many in Pahang, for the purpose of giving advice and encouragement to local industries. The cultivation of tobacco has been much encouraged, and seed of good varieties, previously tested in Negri Sembilan and Pahang, given free to Malays. It may be confidently stated that when a native evinces interest in any form of cultivation every help and encouragement is given to him.

Fruit Plantation, Kuala Pilah.

This plantation was started in 1916, 10 acres of land being felled in that year. Part of this was cleaned and planted with fruit trees in 1917. At the end of that year, the planted stock consisted of 191 fruit trees of nine varieties.

In 1918 permanent cooly lines of six rooms were erected, and a well sunk. The labour employed was Chinese, but now that the living accommodation is good, Malay labour is being used.

The following plants are now established on the plantation: Indian mango 18, pulassan 27, rambutans 55, langsats 55, mangosteens 22, duku 77, buah chermai 2, jambu mawar 4, limes 30, pomelo 6, carcinia 15, bullock's heart 30, pomegranates 8, durian 14, purple guava 33, marang 85, limau mata kerbu 11, papaya 20. This gives a total of 512 plants, and an increase during the year of 321 plants of nine varieties.

Arrangements are now in hand for the supply of a limited amount of fruit stock from nurseries laid down during the year.

One visit was made to Malacca to procure fruit stock from the well-known trees of that district. It is largely from this source that the planting of additional stock has been made.

A further block of five acres has been felled, burnt and partly cleared of stumps, roots, etc., and will be planted in the coming year.

Agricultural Shows.

The following Agricultural Shows have been held in Negri Sembilan.

Tampin and Rembau districts...	28th Sept., 1918
Jelebu district	14th Dec., „
Kuala Pilah district	21st „ „
Seremban and Coast districts ...	15th Jan., 1919

The writer officiated at all the above shows. The total number of entries was about 8,000. All shows were well attended, especially by the Malays, who were the largest exhibitors. Competition in most of the classes was very keen.

The success of such shows as the above, depends very largely on their continuance. They cannot but stimulate the cultivation of food-stuffs, and tend to improve the quality of all the more important food crops, as a result of the greater care given to their production.

R. W. M.

A CHAPTER OF F.M.S. HISTORY.

A PIONEER PLANTER.

(By permission of the Editor of the "Malay Mail.")

ROBERT Wilkinson Munro was a little older than most men on first coming to this country: having first spent a few years teaching in his father's private school. At that period he made a little extra pocket money by playing the piano in professional orchestras. He first appeared in Kuala Lumpur about the end of 1895 and took up a billet on Batu Caves under Martin Lister, of whom to the end of his life he loved to speak with affection. The Meikles, the Glassfords, A. B. Lake, and E. B. Skinner were all planting in the neighbourhood at that date. Toynbee was at Hawthornden. The two Kindersleys had lately become established at Kajang. Munro was not long in the Ulu, however. While the others of his generation hung on to their coffee estates until the utilitarian age of rubber, Munro early adopted the faith of which, for twenty years, he became the High Priest. Seeking out a little permatang near the coast, where the neighbouring kampongs showed what could be done with the coconut in favourable conditions, he settled down, a couple of years before the end of the century, in Kuala Langat, which remained his home for the remainder of his life. In fact he only once returned to England for a very short trip and was fond of arguing that the necessity for frequent leave was a mere delusion. It is one of the ironies that at last he had realized this was a mistake, and when taken ill he was half way through a letter to a near relative informing her that he might take a run home this year.

His First Venture.

His first coconut syndicate was on a very modest scale. The bungalow of which R.W.M. was ever eager to do the honours when some stranger had penetrated to Jugra in the weekly launch, would be rejected by a junior conductor of to-day. The acreage with which he had to be content for many years was less than an ordinary new clearing on estates as they are now. His only white neighbours (W. Greig of Klanang and C. Baxendale of Jugra) had bigger totems to look after, but they too were small affairs by the modern standard. There was a little Government club at the Bukit, where one might play 100 up with the D.O., or if he were away at Sepang, with the Treasury clerk. A yarn with Haji Brahim, or Raja Usop: a pig shoot on Sunday followed by a curry tiffin—these were the great events of an unassuming generation. More than once, of an evening, I have come upon R.W.M. at his piano, discoursing sweet music to an audience of open-mouthed coolies, with a sprinkling of Kampong folk, squatting outside in the pretty little garden which alone distinguished his habitation from the bigger ones among their own.

An Era of Boom.

Beginning in 1906 more planters began to come into Langat, among them the writer of this note, and presently the district was caught up into the vortex of an era of boom. To the end R.W.M. trafficked but little with rubber, and over even that little was almost surreptitious—as though a certain disloyalty were involved. Although his coconut company was reconstructed on a more ambitious scale, that did not lead him to abandon the old patriarchal ways. Munro's pay-day attained an almost fabulous celebrity among his younger and more conventional neighbours. It occurred every second month or so and would last a week-end, involving an interview of from five minutes to an hour with each cooly in turn.

A "Missionary."

He must have raised a substantial percentage of all the nuts that were used for seed up and down the Peninsula during many years, as he gave great attention to nurseries and disposed of quite a large part of his crop in this way. He sold seed in a missionary spirit, as though sending the truth, with his blessing, into dark places. And sooner or later he went himself where his nuts had gone. It was not till about ten years ago that he became widely known as an authority on coconuts, but once he had begun to undertake visiting work his reputation waxed rapidly. There can be few coconut estates from Kedah to Muar, from Kelantan to Riau, which he had not visited at one time or another in the last ten years, and he was as well known as "Coconut Munro" as his old friend was as "Coconut Brown." R. W. M. could go nowhere without making friends and in these years he greatly widened the circle of those who now lament his loss. *Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.*

R. W. M. had many resources. How many of his many friends knew what an accomplished musician he was? His concealment of this fine talent was one of his greatest sins. He was not bookish, though in the end he became an author. In the later years, when his frequent journeyings had made him a familiar figure in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, it was a pleasure to his old friends to observe how quickly his attractive personality brought him new ones. In Kuala Lumpur, in particular, his upright figure, his cheery salutation, the prematurely white hair framing his refined handsome face, had become very familiar. In the greater leisure of the last few years he undertook a good deal of work on various committees and enjoyed sitting on the State Council. He would come up to attend it with his neighbour, the Sultan, who was much attached to him. It seemed a shame that one so peculiarly adapted to enjoy society has been destined for so long to be buried in the jungle.

An Appropriate Memorial.

Since he grew prosperous and had occupied the seaside house he had built at Morib (it is conspicuous from the steamer between Port Swettenham and Port Dickson) R. W. M. had been able to give full scope to the skill in gardening which it had always been one of his greatest delights to exercise. Under the stimulus of his example there came to be more good gardens in Kuala Langat than in the rest of Selangor, and he was always ready to promote a flower show

there or elsewhere. No more appropriate memorial could have been devised nor any that would have pleased him better than the proposed hibiscus collection at Kuala Lumpur. Hibiscus and cannas were his speciality, though he was a specialist in no narrow sense, and was constantly forming fresh attachments.

I always believed that the æsthetic satisfaction he derived from his beloved palm trees largely accounted for his devotion to what was with him less a business than a cult. In the old days one felt that it was almost bad form to talk about rubber in front of R. W. M. I am glad he lived to see the recent high prices of copra. His pleasure at seeing copra over $19 was not so much that of one who pockets a good profit as of the man who watches the success of his favourite—the joy of the prophet whose vision has come true.

A Common Loss.

In this country of young men—and young men occupied in getting enough together to get away from it before they are old—R. W. Munro stood for much that we miss. To him life here was not a mere parenthesis; he had identified himself with the country. While keenly alive to the value of a dollar (circumstances had made him a very economical worker) he was content to render unto Cæsar the things that were Cæsar's. He was not a sentimentalist about the natives but he knew and liked them. He enjoyed the society of his friends, was always ready to suppress his own troubles, and had an almost feminine sympathy with the troubles of others. Life to him was full of beauty and full of interest; a garden to be cultivated. His company was a tonic: and time spent with him a holiday. The removal of that gracious personality is not merely the loss to very many of a very dear friend; it subtracts from our common life here one of the sanest and wholesomest influences to which it was subject.

VISIT OF MALAY OFFICERS, SELANGOR, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, 25th and 26th MARCH, 1919.

THE suggestion that the Malay officers from Selangor should visit the Department of Agriculture was made in August, 1918. Prior to this, similar visits had been made by penghulus from Negri Sembilan and Pahang so that the suggested meeting of Selangor penghulus was but a continuation of the policy of the Department to get in touch, as far as possible, with the native cultivators to induce them to make use of the Department for the purpose of obtaining advice, to familiarize them with the new and improved crops, and to encourage them to apply more scientific methods in the cultivation of their land.

It was originally intended that the meeting should take place on 22nd and 23rd October, 1918, but owing to the influenza epidemic, a postponement was made until 1919. On this occasion the following Malay officers were present:

Kuala Lumpur district	7	penghulus
Ulu Selangor	4	,,
Ulu Langat district	7	,,
Klang district	4	,,
Kuala Selangor district	5	,,
Kuala Langat district	4	,,

A total of 31 officers.

The party were conducted round the plantations by the Agriculturist, and the Agricultural Instructor, Kuala Pilah.

The following programme was followed:

March 25th, 8.30 a.m.—At Department of Agriculture. Tour of the experimental grounds, the various crops shown and their cultivation explained. Rubber cultivation—including such questions as planting distance, drainage, cover crops, terracing and tapping—were demonstrated.

March 26th.—A tour of the Government Reserve, Petaling Hill, at 7.30 a.m., when the Malays were shown such crops as pigeon peas, ragi, yams, maize, padi, various peas and beans. These crops were seen to be cultivated on a field scale. A demonstration of European cultivating implements such as ploughs, cultivators and harrows was given, and some of the Malays invited to work the implements for themselves.

The importance of cultivating food crops at the present time was explained to them, and they were asked not only to instruct and advise their "anak buah" to make every effort to increase the production of food-stuffs during the present year, but by the example of cultivating land themselves, to show the Malays the need of industry.

Following the above-mentioned demonstration, a visit was again made to the Departmental offices, when the Agricultural Chemist gave a demonstration on the preparation of rubber, with the object of showing them the importance of cleanliness on the estate, and the ill effects and lessened value of rubber coagulated with alum and inferior acids.

Finally, Mr. Hose, the Director of Food Production, spoke for a few minutes, and again pointed out the serious position of the food supply of the country, and solution of the problem by the greater local production of food-stuffs, especially of cereals, yams and sweet potatoes.

The penghulus were invited to turn to the Department when wanting advice on agricultural matters; and to apply to the same source for the supply of seed of any of the crops they had just seen.

All the Malay officers have now presented reports on their visit. Much of it is instructive reading, as giving an insight into the Malay point of view. It is regretted that many of the reports were not fuller. One notices that the more educated Malays—those with an English school education,—had a less sure grasp of the various crops shown, and of their cultivation, than had the penghulus, who had a lifetime of native agriculture at their back, and who were quicker to realize the full meaning of the improvements demonstrated on this occasion.

The Department have found in the past that such visits as this, do much to stimulate rural life, and a large number of applications for planting material invariably results. Doubtless this will be the case with the Selangor Malays, unless the fact that the Malays of this State are more frequently town dwellers, and are more prosperous by the cultivation of rubber, renders them indifferent to the cultivation of the possibly less remunerative crops such as many of the food-stuffs.

D. H. G.

THE ADVISORY BOARD OF AMERICAN PLANT PATHOLOGISTS.

AS it now generally agreed that the time is ripe for changes in the grouping of workers in the scientific side of Agriculture in the Peninsula, the following extracts from an article in the May number of *Phytopathology* may be of interest. By the arrangements outlined, the problem of including co-operation without interfering with that independence which is essential for research work, seems in a fair way to be solved.

"The American Phytopathological Society adopted the following resolution at Baltimore, December 28, 1918:

"Resolved, that there be established a permanent committee to be called the Advisory Board of American Plant Pathologists representing the American Phytopathological Society. The personnel of this Board shall be six members appointed by the Council, two each for periods of one, two and three years, and thereafter two each year for a three-year term. These members shall represent the United States Department of Agriculture, and the following regions: North-east, South, Middle West, Pacific Coast and Canada. The chairman of the Board shall be elected annually by the Board.

"The duties of the Board shall be:—(1) To represent the American Phytopathological Society before the National Research Council. (2) To prepare and distribute to the members an annual list of the active phytopathological projects in progress in the country. (3) To arrange for conferences of groups of workers on related subjects at the annual meetings or elsewhere. (4) To confer with workers in related fields, i.e., entomology, genetics, horticulture and agronomy, to promote joint efforts on our common problems. (5) To promote international relations in phytopathology. (6) To take up such other problems as the Board may find necessary, subject to the approval of the Council.

"The completed plans of this Board shall be presented to the Council of the Society for approval before being carried into effect.

"The Advisory Board is the direct successor of the War Emergency Board of 1918. The War Board was appointed by the American Phytopathological Society at Pittsburgh in December, 1917, because the pathologists assembled there, recognizing the emergency created by the world war, believed that the efficiency of pathological work would be increased by promoting co-operation and co-ordination of effort, especially with reference to the production and conservation of food crops. They also believed that a committee from their own ranks could accomplish certain phases of this work more effectively than could any existing agency. The work of the War Emergency Board is already known to you. That Board had a large measure of success, not only in actually co-ordinating pathological work of a war emergency nature but also in fostering the spirit of co-operation amongst pathological workers generally, thus laying a foundation for more effective work in the future. Toward the close of 1918 President E. M. Freeman of the American Phytopathological Society

conducted a referendum to determine the sentiment of the members relative to continuing certain phases of the War Board work during peace times. The vote was more than ten to one in favour of such continuation. Accordingly at the annual meeting at Baltimore, December 28, 1918, the Society adopted the resolution given above.

"The Advisory Board was appointed because the American Phytopathological Society, after one year's experience with the War Board, believed that co-operative work should be continued. Yet it must be admitted that organized co-operation amongst plant pathologists on a peace basis is still an experiment. The scientific workers' training and experience tend to develop their individuality and to render it difficult for them to work in groups after the manner of business men. Recognizing this, Mr. Elihu Root has recently charged scientists with having organized everything except themselves. It is true that the past months have seen a marked growth of sentiment in favour of co-operation in scientific effort. Moreover, plant pathologists have always co-operated with one another to a considerable extent,—the nature of their problems making this necessary. Yet such co-operation has always been sporadic and usually limited to small groups of workers. While few, if any, pathologists oppose co-operation in principle, many have been fearful of some of its effects when put into more general practice. The proposal that co-operation be organized on a broader basis in order that certain problems may be solved more certainly and expeditiously rouses the fear that by so doing we may limit the freedom of individual initiative and may jeopardize the security of ownership of the results of research which are so dear to every investigator.

"Hence the most important task immediately before the Advisory Board is to disarm this fear, and to prove to plant pathologists generally that organized co-operation is a safe tool which, when wisely used, will materially increase the efficiency of pathological work without exploiting the individual. The Board proposes to accomplish this end by concentrating on certain projects which in the judgment of pathologists generally are peculiarly adapted to this method of attack, and by organizing and promoting those projects very carefully on a thoroughly democratic basis. Successful work along this line this year will lay a secure foundation for any expansion of our efforts which may be found desirable in the future.

"The Advisory Board does not contemplate the reorganization of pathological research as some have feared. This would be undesirable even if it were possible. Many investigators are at their best when working alone, and in the case of most, if not all, pathological problems the first attacks must be made under individual initiative. Yet even here co-operation may materially aid the investigator in supplying material, field data, and other assistance needed in the planning and in the prosecution of his work. The initiation of such co-operation may be left wisely to the will of the investigator, although in many cases the Advisory Board may be able to render assistance when requested.

"Many problems which have been thus delimited and clarified under individual attack are found to be so complex and to cover so many fields that only by co-operative assault from different directions

can we hope to make substantial progress toward their solution. As an example we may mention the Fusarium problem, which has been attacked by many investigators and nevertheless is growing more complex and more important every day. This problem concerns many hosts and involves every branch of botanical and agricultural science. Such problems require organized attack, and undoubtedly the Advisory Board will find here a large field of usefulness in the future, but there are many difficulties, both personal and administrative, in the way of undertaking such projects at this time.

"The Board believes that its most immediate sphere of usefulness lies in the field between laboratory investigation and extension work. Most pathological problems finally reach a stage where the initial results of research need wide testing under varying field conditions to determine their value and applicability in extension work. Only when organized widely on a co-operative basis can such tests be conducted effectively and expeditiously, and the results collated. For many diseases investigators have discovered effective control measures, but in no case have these control measures been tested for all parts of the country so that the extension pathologists every where know what to recommend to their growers under the varying local conditions. This statement applies even to such well-known processes as the treatment of cereal grains for smut, the treatment of potatoes for tuber-borne diseases, and the spraying of fruit trees. This field testing still lies in the realm of research, and is properly called field experimentation. It is peculiarly adapted to co-operative organization and only when thus organized may we hope to remedy the present state of deplorable ignorance. Plant pathologists apparently are unanimous in this opinion, and the Advisory Board plans to concentrate its major efforts in this field for the present, believing that success here will disarm any suspicion which now exists and will secure the unanimous support of all pathologists for its future undertakings.

"The Board is convinced that a thoroughly democratic procedure in the initiation and prosecution of projects is absolutely essential. It will, therefore, follow the practice of the War Board and call conferences of pathologists and other agricultural workers at such times and places as circumstances appear to render advisable, for the purpose of discussing the pathological problems of certain regions or of particular crops or both. Not only are these conferences of value in many ways and a great stimulus to those in attendance, but the free round-table discussion develops as does no other method those problems on which co-operative effort is desirable. When such a problem appears, those present who are interested group themselves together as co-operators, elect a leader and formulate their plans of campaign which are then presented to other pathologists for their consideration and support.

"According to this system the Advisory Board neither formulates the plan of co-operation nor carries it out. All that is in the hands of the co-operators themselves. The functions of the Board are to provide the environment and opportunities for co-operation and to furnish that stimulus and general oversight which are necessary for consistent progress. The Board proposes to assist in every way possible, but in no case to dictate or to command.

"Can existing agencies promote co-operation amongst plant pathologists as well or better than the Advisory Board? Is the Board superfluous? I believe not. In the first place no other agency is attempting such work as the Advisory Board has in mind. In the second place I believe no official agency could at this time undertake it with as great prospect of success. The Advisory Board represents the American Phytopathological Society, and has no authority from either State or Federal agencies. This lack of authority is the Board's greatest strength in promoting real co-operation. Being without official entanglements, it cannot be charged with entertaining ulterior motives, nor with attempting to exploit the co-operators. Fortunately there is a rapid growth in good feeling between State and State and between the States and the Federal Department of Agriculture, a good feeling which the War Board and the Advisory Board have done much to promote. Nevertheless it is doubtful whether any official agency at the present time could secure the response which the Advisory Board is assured of because of its neutral position as the representative of the pathologists themselves.

"The important question before the Advisory Board at this time is not 'Is co-operation desirable?' for the answer has already been given in the affirmative. The question is 'Where, when, how and to what extent should co-operation be undertaken?' In answering this question and in developing its plans, the Board requests the advice and criticism of pathologists generally. The Advisory Board was appointed by the American Phytopathological Society and is strictly responsible to the Council of the Society. The duties assigned the Board are both important and difficult. Their successful accomplishment will require not only the best efforts of all members of the Board, but the active co-operation of all pathologists at all times. Let us all co-operate in wisely promoting co-operation."

RESUME OF MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23RD JULY, 1919, AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT:—Mr. L. Lewton-Brain (Director of Agriculture) Chairman, Messrs. H. Armstrong, C. Bell, W. de Leighton Brooke, W. S. Cookson, J. S. Ferguson and F. G. Spring (Agriculturist) Honorary Secretary.

ABSENT:—The Hon'ble Mr. R. C. M. Kindersley, Messrs. J. Bruce, J. W. Kennedy, J. D. McCulloch, R. H. Phillips, C. Ritchie, Chew Kam Chuan and Lee Kong Lam.

Messrs. B. J. Eaton and A. G. G. Ellis attend the meeting.

Before the business of the meeting is commenced the following resolution is moved by the Chairman and carried in silence, standing:

"That this Committee expresses its very deep regret at the death of Mr. R. W. Munro, one of its oldest members, and records its high appreciation of Mr. Munro's services on the Committee and generally to the agriculture of Malaya."

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st May, 1919, having been circulated, are taken as read and confirmed.

In connection with the minutes Mr. Cookson enquires whether sufficient stocks of padi and ragi are available for planting purposes. Mr. Spring replies that sufficient "seed" is in store to meet all present requirements.

Mr. BROOKE asks what action had been taken regarding the use of alum as a coagulant. Mr. Cookson also enquires regarding the action of alum on rubber and considers legislation necessary. He also suggests that information might be made public by means of hand bills, posters, etc. The Chairman replies that a regulation is being made which will prevent the sale and the use of alum as a coagulant; also that a pamphlet, on the use of alum, had been written, translated into Malay, Chinese and Tamil and distributed throughout the country.

On the suggestion of Mr. Brooke it was decided to ask District Officers what the position was with regard to the education of small holders in this connection.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS.

The quarterly progress reports of officers of the Department are laid on the table and the Chairman invites discussion.

Mr. COOKSON draws attention to the information on slab rubber, contained in the quarterly report of the Agricultural Chemist and enquires regarding the percentage of water in such rubber. Mr. Eaton replied that the moisture content could be brought down

to 20 per cent. or lower and that shipments now being made on a large scale to American manufactories contained 20 per cent. He also stated that the Customs Department had been approached regarding reduction on export duty in connection with such moisture content and that an interesting detail obtained in shipping this rubber in slab form was the fact that 250 lbs. of rubber representing over 200 lbs. of dry rubber occupied only the same space as 170 to 180 lbs. of dry crêpe rubber.

In addition the Agricultural Chemist stated that it was hoped eventually, if this type of rubber was prepared in Malaya, to develop a machine for cutting the slab into thin slices or worms which could be dried here and pressed into dry block. In reply to a further question from Mr. Cookson it was stated that probably 95 per cent., or even more, of first latex rubber was at present exported in the form of smoked sheet or pale crêpe.

Mr. Ferguson remarks that it is gratifying to know that the services of the Department of Agriculture have been extended to Malacca and trusts that the Unfederated States may ultimately fall into line with the Colony in this respect.

Mr. Cookson draws attention to the statement made in the quarterly report of the Economic Botanist, that the Krian harvest was a failure owing to a series of disasters. The Chairman explains that this referred purely to experimental tests which are being conducted in the Krian district.

Mr. Armstrong suggests that the Entomologist might be asked to write a pamphlet dealing with insect pests which attack padi. The Chairman replies that such a pamphlet has already been prepared and that it will shortly be published in English and Malay and distributed throughout the Peninsula.

With reference to the Agriculturist's quarterly report Mr. Cookson proposes a vote of thanks to those officers of the Department for the good work accomplished in connection with food production, particularly in respect of distribution of "seed" and the publication of literature on the subject. This resolution is unanimously agreed to and the Chairman thanks Mr. Cookson for his kind remarks.

Mouldy Rot.—Mr. Ferguson asks the Chief Agricultural Inspector for further information regarding mouldy rot. Mr. Ellis replies that no cases of this disease have been reported from Selangor and Perak but that it is rather common in the "kampongs" in some parts of Negri Sembilan. In connection with a further question Mr. Ellis informs the meeting that daily preventative painting is necessary as a precautionary measure against the spread of mouldy rot and that when cases occur, fortnightly painting with a somewhat stronger solution of disinfectant is highly desirable. All tapping of infected trees should be discontinued temporarily. Mention is also made of the fact that mouldy rot is closely associated with insanitary conditions of holdings.

Mr. Cookson enquires whether there is any prospect of filling the vacant appointments in the Agricultural Department. The Chairman replies that it would be difficult to procure suitable men until the salaries have been revised.

Research Studentships.

The Chairman outlines the scheme of research studentships at the Department of Agriculture, Federated Malay States, and mentions that His Excellency the High Commissioner has asked the sanction of the Secretary of State for provision being made in the 1920 Estimates for one studentship in the Department with a request that the scheme might be brought to the notice of the University Authorities at Cambridge. Mr. Armstrong considers that a studentship for one year is too short a period and suggests two years.

Site for the New Agricultural Offices.

The Chairman informs the meeting that the Chief Secretary has appointed a Committee to enquire into and report on a site suitable for the erection of buildings for use as office and laboratory accommodation for the Agricultural Department.

The Chairman is of opinion that the site should be in, or near, Kuala Lumpur but that the experimental plantations of the Department would require to be moved outside as the present position is quite unsuitable on account of the type of soil and nature of the land.

The Committee unanimously agree that the head offices should be in, or near, Kuala Lumpur. Mr. Brooke suggests a site in the neighbourhood of the Institute of Medical Research.

Large Scale Farms.

The Chairman asks Mr. Spring to explain the position as regards Sungei Buloh Reserve.

Mr. Spring informs the meeting that the area in question has been prospected and as a result it is estimated that approximately 1,000 acres of flat land and 1,000 acres of undulating land are available and considered as suitable for experimental purposes. In addition there are considerable areas of hill land, part of which might be required for experimental work in connection with the prevention of soil wash.

Mr. Spring also gives details of 1,000 acres of land situated in the mukim of Petaling. It is considered that both blocks will be required by the Agricultural Department.

A list of the crops which are to be experimented with is given Mr. Brooke favours the enlarging of the scheme as far as the list of vegetable oils is concerned. He considers it advisable to further the production of vegetable oils so as to replace the animal oils.

The Chairman refers to the question of a manager and mentions that the work can now be commenced whenever a suitable man is obtained. After some discussion it is finally decided to advertise, stating the area, and nature of duties. The question of procuring African oil palm seed is left to Mr. Spring.

Brown Bast.

The Chairman informs the members that at a meeting of the Brown Bast Investigation Committee of the 20th May, 1919, Mr. Richards suggested that a meeting with planters for discussion

should do much good, the suggestion was adopted and it was resolved to ask the Director of Agriculture to communicate with the Advisory Committee on the subject.

After some discussion Mr. Cookson proposes that meetings might be held at two centres and that the respective District Planters' Associations might be communicated with on the subject. This is agreed to and the Chairman promises to inform the Brown Bast Committee of their opinion.

Stock Farm.

No information is available as to the possibility of a commencement being made with the establishment of the proposed stock farm. It is agreed to write again to the Under Secretary and to the Hon'ble Mr. R. C. M. Kindersley.

Agricultural Titles.

The Chairman reports that the proposal to insert a condition in the titles of rubber land fixing a maximum number of trees to be planted to the acre was considered by the Residents in Conference on the 2nd of May, 1919, and was not approved.

The meeting terminates at 11.30 a.m.

MEETING OF INDIAN IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE ON 11th AUGUST, 1919.

A MEETING of the Indian Immigration Committee was held at Penang on 11th August.

There were present: The Acting Controller of Labour (Mr. E. W. F. Gilman) Chairman, Principal Medical Officer, Federated Malay States (Dr. C. L. Sansom, C.M.G.), Messrs. F. G. Harvey, E. E. Smith, J. W. Kennedy, J. Bruce and the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. Goodrich, with the Assistant Controller of Labour, Penang, (G. A. de C de Moubray) as Acting Secretary.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. Goodrich and Mr. J. Bruce were welcomed by the Chairman on appointment to the Committee.

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting Mr. Harvey circulated an amended form which he suggested should replace the existing form of return for the local engagement of labourers under section 66 of the Labour Code containing more explanation as to the details required. The Committee approved of the form and decided to recommend its adoption.

The following statements of arrivals and departures of Southern Indians for the period 1st January to 31st July, 1919, and for the corresponding periods in the eight preceding years, were laid before the Committee:

ARRIVALS.

	State-aided.		Ordinary.	
Year.	Adults.	Minors.	Adults.	Minors.
1911 ...	51,710	4,061	10,271	614
1912 ...	45,383	3,728	13,546	829
1913 ...	53,425	4,726	13,963	921
1914 ...	33,293	2,591	13,248	739
1915 ...	26,775	1,974	7,741	488
1916 ...	40,186	4,497	9,318	787
1917 ...	43,961	4,252	6,660	478
1918 ...	32,365	3,725	4,593	388
1919 ...	44,093	4,158	6,220	764

DEPARTURES.

Year.	Adults.	Minors.
1911	29,428	989
1912	37,997	1,690
1913	43,970	2,044
1914	43,449	2,112
1915	33,295	1,496
1916	34,047	1,354
1917	36,369	1,380
1918	35,237	1,522
1919	29,055	1,279

It will be noted that the number of arrivals is higher than in any year since 1913 and that of departures the lowest of any of the years under review.

It was suggested that the more acute food situation in India had contributed to this excess of arrivals over departures.

A return was presented showing that the number of kangany licences registered in Penang from 1st January to 31st July was 5,569 as compared with 5,353 registered during the corresponding period of 1918.

During the first seven months of the year registration of 40 licences was refused at Penang, while 166 were cancelled in consequence of reports received from the Emigration Agents in India as compared with 35 and 126, respectively, during the corresponding months of 1918.

The CHAIRMAN brought to the notice of the Committee a letter from Messrs. Binny & Co., Madras, which he considered should be given publicity, pointing out the difficulties caused by inaccurate descriptions in filling up kangany licences.

On the consideration of allotment of additional licences the Chairman pointed out that the preliminary allotment for 1919 had not yet been fully taken up and there had already been an additional allotment of 50 per cent. approved at the May meeting.

A further 50 per cent. additional allotment was agreed to.

It was also agreed to rescind the decision that the issue of licences be refused to estates not regularly employing Indian labour.

The suggestion for the removal of all restrictions on the issue of licences was considered but it was decided that the control should be maintained.

Information was given with regard to the progress in the matter of the new depôts in India.

At Papacovil (Negapatam) Government had voted the funds but the negotiations with the proprietors had been protracted. The Chairman believed that the matter might now be regarded as settled, and we hoped to be in occupation in about one month from date. At Melpakkam (subsidiary depôt to Avadi, Madras) the depôt had been duly completed and had been in use since the 6th June though the purchase of the property was not actually completed till 25th June. At Coconada a site had not yet been decided on. The Collector of the district had been instructed by the Government of Madras to assist our Emigration Agent in the selection and Mr. Bathurst was to have examined further sites on 25th July.

Correspondence with the Secretary of the Klang District Planters' Association on the subject of the proposed choultry at Port Swettenham was considered.

The Klang District Planters' Association had agreed to undertake the matter but considered that the funds allotted by the Committee were inadequate. It was decided to inform the Klang District Planters' Association that it had misunderstood the intention

of the Indian Immigration Committee which was to experiment with a cheap building and if this were found to be well patronized afterwards to construct a permanent building.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the position at Penang was different as the need of a choultry there had been fully proved. The Committee approved of the construction of a temporary building at Sungei Pinang, in accordance with plans which had been prepared by the Deputy Colonial Engineer.

Arising out of the report of the Deputy Controller of Labour, Penang, on his visit to India in February last certain financial proposals for readjusting the expenditure on immigration between the Government and the Immigration Committee were submitted for the consideration of the Committee. It was decided to accept the Government's proposals.

A letter from the Secretary, Planters' Association of Malaya, was considered asking for favourable consideration of certain other points arising out of the papers on Tamil Immigration laid on the table at the Annual Meeting of the Planters' Association of Malaya on 30th April, 1919, and the following replies were approved:

1. (That regular journeys to and from India be made by the officers mentioned on page 37.) The Committee are in favour but it appears to be out of the question at the present time on account of the shortage of officers.

2. (That the Emigration Agent, Madras, be supplied with a motor car.) This has been done.

3. (That a Telugu speaking officer be sent to Coconada as soon as possible.) It is understood that such an officer will be supplied by the Government as soon as possible, but it is considered by the Committee that a much more immediate need exists for a Medical Officer at Avadi. The Committee are moving in this matter.

4. (That the staff in India be given the status of Government officials.) This is taken to refer to the situation if salaries were paid out of the Fund. Under the financial adjustment now proposed the situation will not arise.

5. (To take steps in regard to the shipping accommodation especially as regards the carrying of cattle on cooly boats and the questions of space and boat accommodation.) It is considered that this question must be left to the Board of Trade or to Marine officials.

Another letter had been received from the Secretary, Planters' Association of Malaya, asking the Indian Immigration Committee to publish quarterly a complete statement of Immigration and Emigration. It was considered that the monthly statement supplied to members of the Indian Immigration Committee would sufficiently meet the case and it was agreed that this should in future be communicated to the press as well as to the Secretary, Planters' Association of Malaya.

The question of the liability for assessment of bonuses paid to tappers was brought up by Mr. Harvey.

It was agreed that assessment would not in future be levied on bonuses given for increased production of latex due purely to the skill of the tapper.

The CHAIRMAN stated that a roster of visitors for the Penang Quarantine Station for the remainder of 1919 had been prepared and sent to the Colonial Secretary for approval. Arrangements were made for four gentlemen including the two on the roster for August to visit on the morning of the 12th.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Colonial Government had sanctioned the expenditure on extensions to the Penang Quarantine Station which were considered necessary and action was being taken. Small wards were being constructed which would be used to take small batches of infected persons. Hitherto the full capacity of the station had not been available as the camps have all been of one size (to accommodate 250 persons) so that half a dozen passengers from one ship might be occupying space which would otherwise accommodate 250.

A statement was presented of the capital cost of the Bakery at Sungei Pinang. The estimate of $2,000 would be exceeded by about $400 and the additional payment was approved.

It has been working since the 1st August.

The CHAIRMAN brought up the question of the outbreaks of cholera that had occurred recently on board the Immigrant steamers. It was considered that further enquiry should be made into the question of the feeding arrangements on board and the Chairman was requested to take action in the matter.

A petition from the menials employed at the Home for Decrepit Indians, Kuala Lumpur, to be supplied with free bread rations was granted.

Mr. E. E. SMITH brought forward complaints from two estates regarding the dieting charges and the large number of absconders from the Negapatam Depôt. The Chairman suggested possible explanations and undertook to have enquiries made if put in possession of all the facts. Mr. Smith handed him the papers.

Mr. SMITH suggested that the rule be abolished requiring an estate to send an English speaking Krani to Port Swettenham to take charge of batches of 30 or more coolies.

The CHAIRMAN replied that in the case cited the rule appeared to have been misunderstood and he undertook to enquire into the matter.

A question raised by the Batang Padang District Planters' Association of the desirability of such an association recruiting labour to be pooled among the associate estates was considered.

The Committee decided that it would not issue licences to such a body.

The Committee adjourned at 2 p.m., the date of the next meeting being fixed provisionally for a Monday at the beginning of November in Penang.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,

held at 12, Market Street, Kuala Lumpur, on 28th August, 1919, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. J. W. Kennedy (*Vice-Chairman*) in the Chair.

„ C. Ward-Jackson (*Secretary*)

and the following DELEGATES:

From the Bahau-Kuala Pilah D.P.A.	Messrs.	Bertram Gray and A. L. Simmons.
„ Batang Padang D.P.A. ...	„	C. B. Graburn and W. K. Forsyth
„ Batu Tiga D.P.A. ...	„	G. H. Bennett and Carlyle Bell
„ Central Perak P.A. ...	Mr.	G. Gordon-Brown
„ Johore P.A.	Messrs.	J. S. Beldam, H. A. Mason and W. B. Campbell
„ Kajang D.P.A.	„	C. Burn-Murdoch, H. L. Lamotte and T. G. Wiggins
„ Kapar D.P.A.	„	H. Case and Noel Fisher
„ Klang „	„	C. A. Buxton and R. S. Battiscombe
„ Kuala Langat D.P.A. ...	„	H. O. Kennedy, G. Fenningworth, and A. H. Malet
„ Kuala Lumpur „ ...	„	H. Armstrong and F. Clyde Jeavons
„ Kuala Selangor „ ...	„	H. B. Dudley
„ Lower Perak P.A. ...	„	W. D. Tait and R. G. Bailey
„ Malay Pen. Agric. Assoc.	The Hon. Mr.	R. C. M. Kindersley and Mr. H. Gough
„ Negri Sembilan P.A. ...	Messrs.	J. Bruce, A. Burgess, G. W. Hingston, A. J. Hearn, J. A. Crosbie, R. Gooch, and A. Waterfield
„ Ulu Selangor D.P.A. ...	„	L. W. Tivy and G. C. Bailey

VISITORS.—Messrs. W. H. Bragg, W. J. Corney, R. K. Mactaggart, L. A. Tucker, A. S. Edwards, R. Napier Hendrie, W. B. Anderson and H. Fauconnier.

Mr. KENNEDY explains that as Vice-Chairman he takes the Chair owing to the regrettable indisposition of Mr. F. G. Harvey, the Chairman, and would, before proceeding with the business, like to refer to the death of Mr. R. W. Munro, a late Chairman of the

Association, who for many years took a keen interest in all matters affecting its welfare. During his period of office as Chairman of the Association, Mr. Munro did much work of value to the Planters' Association of Malaya, and perhaps few men who had come to this country had done more in the interests of planting generally than the deceased gentleman. His activities were not confined to planting matters, for as a member of the Selangor State Council he rendered very valuable services to the country. He was of a cheery and kindly disposition and was loved by all. He would suggest that an expression of deep regret be recorded in the Minutes.

The SECRETARY states that telegrams of regret for non-attendance were received from Messrs. A. B. Milne, of Ipoh, and R. S. Chantler, of Kedah.

1.—THE MINUTES.

On the motion of Mr. F. Clyde Jeavons, seconded by Mr. J. Bruce, the minutes are taken as read, and are confirmed.

2.—WAR.

The SECRETARY submits the following Statements of Accounts of the Planters' War Relief Fund of Malaya, and the F.M.S. War Relief Fund Scheme No. 2:

PLANTERS' WAR RELIEF FUND OF MALAYA.

Subscriptions received for 5 months ended 31st August, 1919.

	$ c.	$ c.
BATANG PADANG		
D.P.A. ...	60.00	
		60.00
BATU TIGA D.P.A.		
Bennett, G. H. ...	25.00	
Begg, N. C.	25.00	
Chalmers, A. P. ...	15.00	
Gilman, M. A. P. ...	30.00	
McNeill, F.	30.00	
Orr, Douglas, H. ...	60.00	
Robertson, J. A. ...	10.00	
Webb, C. M. ...	5.00	
Williamson, J. ...	10.00	
		210.00
CENTRAL PAHANG P.A.		
Sungei Bilut Estate	10.00	
		10.00
Carried forward		280.00

	$ c.	$ c.
Brought forward		280.00
CENTRAL PERAK		
P.A. ...	292.00	
Caldwell, W. J. ...	80.00	
Jonklaas, W. O. ...	20.00	
Robins, N.	5.00	
Wilson, T. K. ...	60.00	
		457.00
JOHORE P.A. ...	60.00	
Adamson, H. A. ...	30.00	
Bolton, G. W. ...	90.00	
Lanadron Estate ...	50.00	
Ross, D. A.	160.00	
Nordanal Estate ...	50.00	
		440.00
Carried forward		1,177.00

	$ c.	$ c.
Brought forward		1,177.00
KAJANG D.P.A. ...	120.00	
Clerk, G. P.	20.00	
Cummins, E. N. T. ...	25.00	
Dakeyne, O. P. ...	50.00	
Ferrers, C. R. ...	80.00	
Kindersley, R. C. M.	50.00	
Mesney, R. F. ...	30.00	
Moullin, H. R. ...	75.00	
Paul, C. K.	40.00	
Schwabe, E. M. ...	40.00	
		530.00
KAPAR D.P.A.		
Pratt, J. C.	27.00	
Stonehewer, R. S. ...	17.00	
		44.00
KELANTAN P.A.		
Anderson, W. G. ...	50.00	
Archer, L. D. ...	45.00	
		95.00
KLANG D.P.A. ...	17.86	
Biddlecombe, H. T. A.	36.00	
Greenhill, R. D. ...	50.00	
Gulland, D. L. ...	10.00	
Hendrie, R. N. ...	20.00	
Latimer, T. M. ...	20.00	
Maguire, C.	30.00	
Roberts, C. L. ...	30.00	
		213.86
KUALA LANGAT D.P.A.		
Irvine, D'Arcy, H. C.	30.00	
Landrum, J. B. ...	45.00	
Mann, J. P.	30.00	
Munro, R. W. ...	60.00	
Symons, G. O. W. ...	40.00	
		205.00
Carried forward		2,264.86

	$ c.	$ c.
Brought forward		2,264.86
KUALA LUMPUR D.P.A.		
Armstrong, H. ...	30.00	
Barnet, G. P. ...	100.00	
Campbell, F. M. ...	50.00	
Coppens, P.	20.00	
Douglas, J. B. ...	16.65	
Fox, A. J.	80.00	
Fraser, W. D. ...	40.00	
Harvey, T. R. ...	30.00	
Ladell, R. G. ...	20.00	
McCrow, D. W. ...	30.00	
Smith, Sharpe, M. ...	102.84	
		519.49
KUALA SELANGOR D.P.A.		
Gordon, W. M. ...	68.00	
Irving, L. A. ...	30.00	
E. D. M. K. K. ...	40.00	
		138.00
LOWER PERAK P.A.		
Bayley, H.	45.00	
Dell, W.	20.00	
Hargreaves, J. ...	40.00	
McLeod, R. A. ...	40.00	
Pickering, J. T. ...	5.00	
Ratani Estate Staff ...	59.77	
Symes, A. B. ...	45.00	
Tobutt, T. K. ...	10.00	
Wilson, R. J. ...	5.00	
		269.77
M. P. A. A.		
Bobe, E.	45.00	
Bukit Mertajam Estate	272.00	
Careless, H. G. ...	36.00	
Josselyn, E. W. ...	60.00	
Rubber Estates of Krian	79.00	
		492.00
Carried forward		3,684.12

	$ c.	$ c.
Brought forward		3,684.12
NEGRI SEMBILAN P.A.		
Adair, H.	30.00	
Burgess, J.	20.00	
Clarkson, S. W. ...	10.00	
Fenton, R. D. ...	20.00	
Grant, G.	20.00	
Handover, W. P. ...	40.00	
Payment through Hongkong Bank ...	20.00	
Hay, J. B.	34.00	
Hearn, A. J.... ...	30.00	
Kellitt, W.	60.00	
King, H. W. F. ...	60.00	
Maycock, R. M. A. ...	40.00	
Paterson, A. F. ...	30.00	
Ritchie, C.	30.00	
Reynolds, K. P. ...	80.00	
Carried forward		3,684.12

	$ c.	$ c.
Brought forward		3,684.12
NEGRI SEMBILAN P.A.—(*cont.*)		
Sepang Valley Estate	500.00	
Smith, E. E.... ...	60.00	
Tayler, V. A. ...	50.00	
		1,134.00
TAIPING P. A. ...	130.00	
Moreas, H. F. ...	30.00	
Perera, C.	15.00	
		175.00
SELANGOR D.P.A.		
Brunton, R.	20.00	
Coe, P. F.	40.00	
Kennedy, W. C. ...	30.75	
		90.75
Grand Total		5,083.87

PLANTERS' WAR RELIEF FUND OF MALAYA.

Statement of Accounts for period from 1st April to 25th August, 1919.

	$ c.		$ c.
To Sundry Collections as per list attached	5,083 87	July 15 By Remittance £500 ...	4,252 49
To Bank Interest for half year to 30th June	10 43	,, Stamps on Drafts ...	0 41
		,, Balance as per Cash Book ...	841 40
	5,094 30		5,094 30

25th August, 1919.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES WAR RELIEF FUND, SCHEME No. 2. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT, 1st APRIL TO 30th JUNE, 1919.

Receipts.	Amount. £ s. d.
Balance from last account	36,381 5 3
Remittance from the Planters' Association of Malaya	1,131 6 8
Refund of Advance by Mr. A. St. Alban Smith ...	24 16 0
Interest on Investments	490 0 0
Interest on Deposits	35 0 0
Interest on current Bank Balances	10 2 7
	38,072 10 6

Payments.	£ s. d.	Amount. £ s. d.
Grants and gratuities:		
Mrs. ——	25 0 0	
,, ——	25 0 0	
,, ——	20 0 0	
,, ——	9 0 0	
,, ——	25 0 0	
,, ——	15 0 0	
,, ——	50 0 0	
,, ——	30 0 0	
Mr. ——	15 0 0	
,, ——	34 0 0	
,, ——	50 0 0	
,, ——	5 0 0	
,, ——	25 0 0	
,, ——	5 0 0	
,, ——	20 0 0	
		353 0 0
Postages, etc.		8 4
Balance		37,719 2 2
		38,072 10 6

The balance of £37,719 2*s.* 2*d.* is disposed of as under:

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Five per cent. War Loan (£12,000) at cost		11,400 0 0
Six per cent. Exchequer Bonds		2,000 0 0
Five per cent. National War Bonds		21,000 0 0
Deposits in Chartered Bank of India		2,000 0 0
Balance of current account in Chartered Bank	1,333 5 5	
Less outstanding cheques	14 0 0	
		1,319 5 5
		37,719 5 5
Due to Treasurer ...		3 3
		37,719 2 2

(Sd.) Wm. T. Taylor,
10th July, 1919.

I hereby certify that I have audited the above statement of receipts and payments with the books and vouchers of the Fund and find the same to be correct. The grants have all been duly authorized by the Committee.

(Sd.) A. H. Cullen,
Chartered Accountant,
Honorary Auditor.

73, Basinghall Street, E.C.,
12th July, 1919.

Mr. KENNEDY announces that subscriptions for the War Relief Fund are still being received.

The SECRETARY submits the following correspondence regarding the s.s. "Marama":

"38 EASTCHEAP,
"LONDON, E.C. 3.
"*5th June, 1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"With reference to my letter of the 8th of May, the Emergency Committee took this matter in hand and there was considerable difficulty in getting hold of witnesses, and from the evidence which we obtained, it appeared that there were discomforts on board, but these were chiefly owing to the large number of women and children passengers, and also to the fact that the "Marama" was diverted to Malaya for a special purpose and was not a regular passenger steamer. I understand the food on board was excellent.

"However, the Committee communicated with the Government in the matter and I enclose for your information copies of the following:

"1. Letter from the Ministry of Shipping, dated 9th May.

"2. Question and answer in the House of Commons on the 20th May.

"3. Letter from the Colonial Office, dated 20th May, enclosing report of the Board of Trade Surveyor.

"Yours faithfully,
"(Sd.) FRANK G. SMITH,
Secretary.

"H. C. E. ZACHARIAS, ESQ.,
"SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"12, MARKET STREET,
"KUALA LUMPUR, F.M.S."

S.S. "MARAMA"

The following letter from the Ministry of Shipping, dated 9th May, was submitted:

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant regarding the Transport "Marama" and to inform you that the P. & O. Steamship Company have been requested to investigate the complaints made on arrival of the ship in London, and to report to this Department in due course.

"On receipt of this report a further communication will be addressed to you.

"I would point out, however, that the s.s. "Marama" was specially diverted to Singapore in view of the urgent necessity of removing the large numbers of women and children awaiting passage in the Straits Settlements. The authorities there were duly informed of the nature of the accommodation available in the ship and it was recognized that the passengers would experience some inconvenience and discomfort in the circumstances. The best possible arrangements were made to deal with the situation and if the vessel in question had not been specially allocated the bulk of the passengers would still be in the Straits Settlements."

In the House of Commons on 20th May the following question was put:

Sir Watson Cheyne asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Shipping Controller, if he is aware of the hardships to the passengers on board the s.s. "Marama" due to overcrowding and defective sanitation; and if he will look into the matter?

Colonel L. Wilson replied as follows: My Right Honourable Friend is not aware that any hardships were experienced by the passengers on board the s.s. "Marama." This vessel was specially diverted to Singapore to remove the large number of civilians for whom conveyance to the United Kingdom was urgently required for medical reasons. The whole of the accommodation and the sanitary arrangements were inspected by experienced Board of Trade Surveyors on arrival of the ship in this country and before the passengers left. It is clear from the report of these Surveyors that there was no overcrowding, that the sanitary arrangements were quite satisfactory and that there was no reasonable cause for complaint.

Copy of letter from the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, addressed to the Secretary, Rubber Growers' Association, under date of 28th May, 1919.

"With reference to the letter from this Department of the 8th May concerning the alleged insanitary condition of and overcrowding in the s.s. "Marama," I am directed by Viscount Milner to transmit to you, for the information of the Rubber Growers' Association, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Board of Trade, enclosing a copy of a report by two of the Board's Surveyors on the matter."

"Board of Trade,
"Marine Department,
"7, Whitehall Gardens,
"London, S.W. 1,
"*15th May, 1919.*

"Sir,

"With reference to your letter 26937/19, of the 6th May, respecting complaints of the alleged insanitary condition of, and overcrowding in, the Transport "Marama," I am directed by the Board of Trade to state for the information of Viscount Milner, that

the vessel was inspected by two experienced Board of Trade Surveyors on arrival in this country, and I am to transmit to you the accompanying copy of the report of their officers in the matter.

"I have the honour to be, etc.,
"(Sd.) GARNHAM ROPER.

"THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
"COLONIAL OFFICE,
"S.W. 1."

"BOARD OF TRADE SURVEYORS OFFICE,
"79, MARK LANE, E.C.,
"*12th May, 1919.*

"S.S. "MARAMA" OF DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND.

"SIR,

"In accordance with your instructions and M. 6582/19 we visited the above-named ship, at Tilbury Dock on her arrival at 11 a.m. on the 9th instant at which time she still had all her passengers on board with the exception of 137 who had disembarked at Plymouth. We inspected the whole of the passenger accommodation and sanitary arrangements, and now beg to report as follows:

"From Captain B. M. Aldwell, the master of the ship, whom we interviewed in his bed, he being only now recovering from pneumonia, we gathered the following information:

"The s.s. "Marama" registered at Dunedin, New Zealand, is owned by the Union Steamship Co., of New Zealand, and prior to the war was engaged in the passenger trade between Sydney and Vancouver, holding a passenger certificate granted by the New Zealand Government for:

Saloon passengers	252	
2nd Class	120	
3rd Class	200	
Crew	129	
Total ...	601	persons.

"During the war she had been employed as a 'Hospital' ship and latterly as an 'ambulance' ship by the New Zealand Government and remains with certain modifications fitted as such. On her last arrival at New Zealand the ship was taken over by the Imperial Government and ordered to Bombay to embark passengers at that port for London, but was afterwards, on (we understand) the urgent representations of the Federal Malay States Government, diverted to Singapore, and there taken over by that Government. Under the supervision of Dr. Lewis, the Chief Medical Officer at the Port, the internal arrangements were modified considerably in order to accommodate the exceptionally large proportion of women and children which the ship was required to carry, and we understand the whole of the passengers were booked and berthed by Government officials.

"When the ship left New Zealand, there were on board in addition to the white crew, 11 military passengers and at the Straits Settlements, namely, Singapore, Swettenham, and Penang, embarked:

	Persons.	Statute adults.	Total women and children.
Men	112	112	
Women	228	228	
Children over 3 and under 12 years ...	148	74	
Infants	76	—	228
Native servants ...	18	18	148
			76
	582	432	452
Passengers from N. Z.	11	11	
Total passengers on board leaving Penang ...	593	443	Date of leaving April 10th.
Total crew leaving Penang	185	185	
Additional crew (stewards) shipped at Colombo	14	14	Date of leaving April 15th
Total persons on board leaving Colombo ...	792	642	Arrived London May 9th

"The total number of berths required for passengers being 517.

"*Accommodation.*—On inspection we found that with the exception of 108 berths in cabins situated on promenade, upper and main decks, accommodation consisted of wards as originally fitted and were as follows:

	Designation.	No. of berths.	
On upper deck (starboard side) ...	Wards "A"	21	Allotted to women and children
„ „ (port side)	„ A.I	27	„
Fore end of main deck ...	„ B	44	„
„ „ „ ...	„ C	52	„
After „ „ ...	„ D	58	{ 34 „ / 24 men
„ „ „ ...	„ E	58	
Fore end of lower deck ...	„ F	46	women and children
„ „ „ ...	„ G	92	
After end of prom. deck ...	„ H	16	men
Total berths in wards ...		414	
In cabins ...		108	
Total berths fitted ...		522	

"From measurements taken in the wards, we estimate the average superficial area as being considerably over 30 ft. per berth, this does not include public rooms. The cots were roomy, measuring 6′ 6″ × 2′ 6″, and wards as arranged were far superior to any open berthed accommodation which we have previously inspected. The messing arrangements were such, that all passengers dined at two sittings, a separate dining room being provided for children. Therefore we submit that there is certainly no evidence that the ship was overcrowded.

"*Sanitary conditions.*—The ventilation of the wards or compartments was mechanical and apparently ample as would naturally be expected in a ship fitted for invalids, and there were also electric fans fitted throughout. The sanitary arrangements, of which we give a detailed list on separate sheet, were sufficient and had been amplified at Singapore. There was also a large, fully equipped and staffed laundry on board, and at the time of our inspection (allowing for the unavoidable confusion of disembarkation) the whole of the accommodation was clean and in a perfectly sanitary condition.

"There is, therefore, no reason to believe that the ship was at any time in an unsanitary condition, and in further proof of this the fact that no epidemic and practically no illness occurred during the voyage might be considered. We understand that one child died shortly after leaving Penang.

"*Staff.*—When the ship left Penang, the Victualling Department Staff consisted of:

Whites, including four stewardesses ...	52
Asiatics	48
	100
Asiatics shipped at Colombo	14
Total ...	114

of which 83 men and four stewardesses were actually engaged in attending to the passengers.

"We, therefore, submit that the ship could not be considered as understaffed.

"In further conversation with the Captain, we gathered that a number of complaints were made to him soon after the vessel sailed, and before things had settled down. Eventually a Committee of passengers was formed consisting mainly of a number of medical men, who were officials under the Federated Malay States Government, and this Committee handed a written statement to the Captain alleging that the ship was in an overcrowded unsanitary condition, and short of staff, and also complaining of the attitude of the ship's medical officers.

"However after a few days this Committee again interviewed Captain Aldwell and informed him that they wished to withdraw their complaint and also asked for the return of the written statement, this after some hesitation the Captain handed back to them, thinking that no more would be heard of the matter, and he also informed us that from that time there had been practically no complaints.

"Captain Aldwell also stated that the passengers were considerably mixed as to class, and that it took a few days to sort them out satisfactorily. Also that the exceptionally large number of ladies travelling with small children, who accustomed as they were under Eastern conditions to an almost unlimited number of servants, were entirely at a loss on board the ship to know how to take care of themselves and children, especially during some bad weather experienced shortly after leaving Penang, when most of the passengers were sea sick, did not improve matters.

"The condition during this period may conceivably have given colour to the complaints as to the insanitary condition of the ship and shortage of staff, and to remedy this as far as lay in his power, the Captain decided to call at Colombo where he took on board the 14 extra native stewards (all that were procurable there) in addition to quantities of fruit, etc.

"Captain Aldwell expressed his opinion that the complaints referred to can be traced to a great extent to professional jealousy among the medical men on board, who were apparently dissatisfied. Firstly, that the Medical Officer of the ship, Captain Tweed, N. Z. M. C., had been appointed by the New Zealand Government and secondly, because of the appointment by the Malay Straits (*sic*) Government of Dr. Gray, Port Health Officer of Penang, Assistant Medical Officer, probably thinking that some one of their number had a prior right to these appointments.

"From our inspection and the information gleaned aboard the ship, we are of the opinion that none of the complaints mentioned can be substantiated. Naturally it must have been extremely distasteful to passengers of the class to which the majority of these people belonged, accustomed to every luxury and an unlimited number of servants, to travel in open berths with as many as 90 other ports (berths?) in the same compartment, with absolutely no privacy and a limited number of servants. The conditions were not what passengers would naturally expect for First Class accommodation, and they might reasonably complain of discomfort. A number of these people, we understand, had booked berths in regular P. & O. liners which were to have called at Singapore, but had been diverted owing to national exigencies to other ports, and as no passenger ships had been available from that part of the world for years, there was naturally a great anxiety on the part of these people to take the first opportunity offered, without considering or at least without realizing the conditions under which they would travel.

"The only criticism which we would make as to the accommodation is that from the Emigration Officer's point of view, the hospital space provided was inadequate, consisting only of one room measuring 158 superficial feet with six beds fitted, but fortunately on this voyage hospital accommodation was not required.

"The separation of the sexes was satisfactory with the exception of Ward D, of which one side was occupied by men, and the other women and children, the separation here at the stairway consisted only of a light curtain. It might also have been advisable to provide some more small baths or basins in view of the large amount of children carried.

"In conclusion we desire to state that both from the P. & O. Company's officials, who were acting as agents, and the captain and officers of the ship we received all the assistance possible, and every facility was afforded us to carry out this inspection.

"We regret that we did not have the opportunity of meeting the medical officers of the ship, as apparently they left the ship very soon after her arrival.

"We are, etc.,
"(Sgd.) H. B. POPE,
"O. A. BARRAND,
"*Assistant Emigration Officers.*"

SANITARY ACCOMMODATIONS.

	W. C.'s.	Baths.	Wash basins.
PROMENADE DECK.—			
Men	2 ...	3 ...	4
Women	2 ...	3 ...	
SPAR DECK.—			
Men	— ...	— ...	3
Women	6 ...	— ...	3
MAIN DECK.—			
Women	5 ...	3 ...	8
	1 ...	1 ...	3
	2 ...	2 ...	10
	5 ...	2 ...	7
Men	4 ...	2 ...	6
TWEEN DECK.—			
Women	3 commodes	...	14

SUMMARY.—

			Counting
Women	26 ...	9 ...	infants 45 total—452
Men	6 ...	5 ...	13 „ —123

Mr. KENNEDY thinks this matter can now rest there.

3.—LABOUR.

(*a*) ABSCONDING COOLIES' WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE.

The SECRETARY submits the following correspondence:

"We are asked to give our opinion as to 'what provision the law makes regarding the payment of a month's wages in lieu of notice on the part of estate labourers who have absconded' or, in other words, 'for what period after leaving the estate an absconding cooly can tender a month's wages in lieu of notice and thereby obviate proceedings for absconding.'

"We are instructed to give our opinion on an hypothetical case and the value of any opinion on such a case must we think be considerably less than on a case arising out of actual facts. An hypothetical case is seldom or never exactly on all fours with the circumstances of real life, and so many different facts may have to be taken into consideration when a case actually occurs that are absent when it is considered in theory, that we think opinions on hypothetical cases are of very little practical use.

"With these reservations we think that section 69 of the Labour Code is applicable to the case of a cooly who has absconded. That section reads as follows:

"69. (i) Either party to an agreement may terminate such agreement by giving to the other party a month's notice (or in the case of domestic servants fourteen days' notice) of his intention so to do.

"(ii) Such notice may be either verbal or written and may be given at any time, and the day on which notice is given shall be included in the period of the notice.

"(iii) When notice has been given there shall be paid to the labourer on the date of the expiration of the notice all wages then due to him.

"We are unable to arrive at any other conclusion in view of the provision in sub-section (ii) quoted above which states that notice 'may be given *at any time*.' Section 71 also appears to be equally wide in its scope.

"71. It shall be lawful for either party to an agreement to terminate the same without notice upon payment to the other party of a sum equal to the amount of wages which would have accrued to the labourer during the term of such notice.

"We wish, however, to point out that sub-section (iii) of section 69 must be read with section 73. 'In the event of any dispute between the parties to an agreement .....concerning the termination of the same' the Court has power 'in addition to any other adjudication to order either party to the agreement to forfeit to the other a sum not exceeding the amount of 30 days' wages.'

"A cooly absconds by section 235, sub-section (i), by being continuously absent from his place of employment for more than 24 hours without leave or without resonable excuse. He thereby commits an offence. Subsequently whether arrested for absconding or not he can, we think, at any time give a month's notice or terminate the agreement by payment of a month's wages. We do not think however that he thereby can escape from the consequences of his offence. (It might make some difference in this respect whether or not a warrant has already been applied for at the time he gives notice.) The offence has been committed and he will be liable to be tried and sentenced for absconding although he has afterwards endeavoured to legalize his position. It seems to us that his position after the date of notice or payment is very different from his position between the time when he deserts and the time he gives notice. This last-mentioned period is the period when the offence is committed and we can see nothing in the Code that prevents proceedings being taken for absconding although afterwards notice is given or payment

made. In practice we do not think an employer would get much satisfaction who only applied for a warrant after notice or payment but if he has already applied we can see no difference between the hypothetical case and any other case of absconding.

"The opinion of
"FREEMAN & MADGE,
"*4th July, 1919.*"

(*b*) TAMIL IMMIGRATION.

The SECRETARY also submits the following correspondence:

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*1st July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I have the honour to inform you that at the last General Meeting of this Association the following resolution was carried, viz.:

'That the Indian Immigration Committee be asked to publish quarterly, if the figures are available, a complete statement of the labour position in Malaya showing the number of arrivals and departures, losses by death, and the number remaining.'

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,
"*Secretary.*

"CHAIRMAN,
"INDIAN IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

"LABOUR OFFICE,
"*Penang, 17th July, 1919.*

"No. 2 in C. of L. 390/19.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, conveying the resolution of the last General Meeting of your Association *re* the Indian Immigration Committee being asked to publish quarterly a complete statement of the Indian labour position in Malaya.

"2. It seems to have been overlooked that a good deal of the information asked for is already published. Figures of arrivals of immigrants are communicated to the *Malay Mail* upon the day of arrival of each ship. These figures are always published in the *Malay Mail* and are copied into most, if not all, of the newspapers of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. Further a summary of the arrivals and departures communicated to every newspaper in the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements to the number of nine immediately after each meeting of the Indian Immigration Committee.

"3. Your letter will be laid before the Indian Immigration Committee at their next meeting and I have in the meantime arranged that the monthly summary of arrivals and departures which is sent to members of the Indian Immigration Committee shall also be communicated to the press.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sd.) E. W. F. GILMAN,

"*Acting Controller of Labour, F.M.S.*

"THE SECRETARY,

"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,

"KUALA LUMPUR."

"KUALA LUMPUR,

"*1st July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 201 of the 31st of May which was considered at the last General Meeting of this Association held on the 25th ultimo when I was instructed to say that the Association for the time being does not wish to proceed further in the matter.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,

"*Secretary.*

"UNDER SECRETARY,

"FEDERATED MALAY STATES,

"KUALA LUMPUR."

Mr. KENNEDY thinks it is very satisfactory that the Indian Immigration Committee have met all the wishes of the Association. He understands that there was an outbreak of cholera in India but is glad to say conditions are very much improved.

The SECRETARY reads the following letters:

"LABOUR OFFICE,

"PENANG,

"*14th August, 1919.*

"No. 2 in I.I.O. (Misc.) 1069/19.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter from Messrs. Binny & Co., Madras, regarding insufficiency of particulars given on kangany licences for your information.

"2. The matter was brought up at the recent meeting of the Indian Immigration Committee, when it was considered that publicity should be given to it.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) E. W. F. GILMAN,
"*Deputy Controller of Labour.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

"MADRAS,
"*31st July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"We have the honour to bring to your notice that the particulars of kanganies, such as height, marks, etc., are sometimes described incorrectly on licences issued by estates in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. We are inclined to think that those who make out these licences do not consider accuracy very important.

"We have, so far, managed to compete with these doubtful cases by questioning the holders as to their knowledge of the various details on the licences, but it would be much more satisfactory if the licences were made out more accurately.

"We have, etc.,
"*for* BINNY & CO., LTD.,
"(Sd.) C. W. CHAMBERS,
"*Assistant Manager.*

"THE DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF LABOUR,
"PENANG."

"PENANG,
"No. 3 in C. of L. 390/19. "*16th August, 1919.*

"SIR,

"In continuation of my letter of even number of the 17th July last with reference to the request of your Association that Indian Immigration Committee should publish quarterly a complete statement of the Indian labour position in Malaya, I have the honour to inform you that your letter was laid before the Committee at the recent meeting on 11th August when it was considered that the action intimated in para. 3 of my previous letter sufficiently met the case, viz., the publication of the monthly summary that is supplied to members of the Indian Immigration Committee and in future copies of this summary will be sent to your Association as well as to the press.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) E. W. F. GILMAN,
"*Acting Controller of Labour, F.M.S.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
KUALA LUMPUR."

"PENANG,
"*16th August, 1919.*

"No. 3 in C. of L. 375/19.

"SIR,

"In continuation of my letter of even number of the 21st June with reference to certain points arising out of papers on Tamil immigration laid on the table at the Annual Meeting of the Planters' Association of Malaya on the 30th April last for which you asked for favourable consideration by the Indian Immigration Committee I have the honour to inform you that your letter was duly considered by the Committee who desire me to reply to the various points as follows:

"1. (That regular journeys to and from India be made by the officers mentioned in page 37.)

The Committee are in favour but it appears to be out of the question at the present time on account of the shortage of officers.

"2. (That the Emigration Agent, Madras, be supplied with a motor car.) This has been done.

"3. (That a Telugu speaking officer be sent to Coconada as soon as possible.) It is understood that such an officer will be supplied by the Government as soon as possible, but it is considered by the Committee that much more immediate needs exist for a Medical Officer at Avadi. The Committee are moving in this matter.

"4. (That the staff in India be given the status of Government officials.) This is taken to refer to the situation if salaries were paid out of the Fund. Under the financial adjustment now proposed the situation will not arise.

"5. (To take steps in regard to the shipping accommodation especially as regards the carrying of cattle on cooly boats and the questions of space and boat accommodation.) It is considered that this question must be left to the Board of Trade or to Marine officials.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) E. W. F. GILMAN,
"*Acting Controller of Labour, F.M.S.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

MEMORANDUM.

From the Deputy Controller of Labour, Penang.

To the Secretary, Planters' Association of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

Date 8th August, 1919.

"Please note that the following districts are at present closed to recruiting:

Malabar district ...	...	The whole district
South Canara ...	...	Do.
Ganjam	...	Do.

Recruiting is resumed in the following taluks:

Vizag district	...	All taluks except Bimbilipatam.
Godaveri „	...	All taluks except Pithapuram and Peddapuram.
Kistna „	...	All taluks except Divi, Ellore, Gudivada and Nandigam.
Guntur „	...	All taluks except Rapalli and Bapatla.
Nellore „	...	All taluks.
North Arcot district	...	All taluks except Arkonam, Gudiyatham, Polur, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Walajapet.
Chittoor „	...	All taluks except Tirupathi.

"(Sd.) E. W. F. GILMAN,
"*Deputy Controller of Labour, Penang.*"

Mr. KENNEDY refers briefly to these letters and would call special attention to the remarks made by the Deputy Controller of Labour about the licences of kanganies and suggests that the Secretary be instructed to circularize members on the subject.

The Secretary is instructed accordingly.

(*c*) PENANG QUARANTINE.

The Secretary reads the following letter from the Colonial Secretary, Singapore:

"SINGAPORE,
"*12th August, 1919.*

"No. 10704/18.

"SIR,

"With reference to your letter of 4th December, 1918, on the subject of the appointment of visitors to the Quarantine Station, Penang, I am directed to inform you that the matter has been considered from all points of view and it has been decided that the best course will be for your Association to appoint Visitors in such manner as it thinks fit.

"2. The Government will supply a launch and other facilities when required.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) E. C. H. WOLFF;
"*for Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

The SECRETARY explains that the Government have invited this Association to appoint five Visiting Members, and that four have already been nominated by four constituent bodies in Perak.

(*d*) Labour Clause in Land Grant.

Mr. Kennedy reports that the Standing Committee held a lengthy and thorough dicussion on this matter at their last meeting, as the Association at the Seremban Meeting had decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Standing Committee which had come to the conclusion that the suggested labour clause will be very difficult to work if it did not prove to be absolutely unworkable. The Committee were of opinion that the proposed clause was inequitable and that it was not desirable that legislation should be invoked. In regard to the alienation of land in that form, the Standing Committee has framed a resolution to put before this meeting and he expresses the hope that the meeting will endorse the Committee's decision.

Mr. Kindersley proposes that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Under Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, suggesting that before land is alienated for rubber planting, applicants should be required to satisfy the Government that they are in a position to recruit labour from outside the Federated Malay States.

Further, that the Government might in cases where it is deemed advisable, insert special conditions in grants to insure the importation of labour, and that the Controller of Labour be instructed to satisfy himself that such conditions are being carried out.

Mr. Armstrong thinks that the Standing Committee is to be congratulated on its finding in this most difficult matter.

The resolution is seconded by Mr. Forsyth, and is carried *nem. con.*

The Secretary places upon the table the Report of the Central Employment and Labour Board (Simla) for the year ended 31st May, 1919.

4.—FOOD.

The Secretary submits the following correspondence:

"Petaling Estate,
"*26th June, 1919.*

"Rice.

"Dear Sir,

"I have sent the following telegram to Mr. F. S. Physick, Ipoh, regarding allotment of rice:

'Planters strongly object allotment rice based on labour assessment returns please do utmost arrange allotment according labour figures in revised form A.'

"Yours faithfully,
"(Sd.) F. G. Harvey.

"Secretary,
"Planters' Association of Malaya,
"Kuala Lumpur."

"Food Controller,
"Kuala Lumpur,
"*10th July, 1919.*

"No. 20 in 174/19.

"Gentlemen,

"In connection with the question of substitutes for rice in the diet of Asiatic labourers on mines and estates in this country, I have the honour to request you to be so good as to bring it to the notice of constituents of your Association that for experimental purposes small supplies of whole wheat or of mealie meal may now be obtained from the Secretary to the Food Controller, Singapore.

"2. An advertisement appearing at present in the local newspapers mentions one simple method of using the mealie meal, and I enclose an extract from the *Malay Mail* of 6th May which describes one way of preparing whole wheat for food easily and quickly.

"3. If you can do anything to further the use of either mealie meal or whole wheat in partial substitution for rice, your help in this connection will be most highly esteemed.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) A. Hunter,
"*Agent to Food Controller, F.M.S.*

"To Secretary,
"The Planters' Association of Malaya,
"Kuala Lumpur."

Wheat Substitution.

One Mode of Preparation.

Mrs. A. H. do R. Fonseca, Taiping, writes:

"After reading Mr. Burkill's long notice in your paper dated 2nd May, 1919, the major part of which lays stress on the difficulty of treating wheat, to convert it into meal, I send you the following recipe which anybody and everybody can use in these days of privation. Place the wheat on the ordinary curry stone in your kitchen, and roll it over lightly with the grinder so as to crush the grain. A catty of wheat grain can be crushed in this way in 5 minutes by any servant. Then the husks can be separated on a bamboo platter by a tilting movement familiar to all Malays, Chinese and Tamils for cleaning rice. Place the wheat in a quantity of boiling water and cook till soft in the same way as porridge, adding a little salt to taste. When ready serve in the same way as porridge by adding milk and sugar. This is a favourite dish of certain classes in India for breakfast."

(*"Malay Mail" of Tuesday, 6th May, 1919.*)

"OFFICE OF THE AGENT TO THE FOOD CONTROLLER,
"FEDERATED MALAY STATES,
"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*25th July, 1919.*

"No. (3) in 279/19.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to enquire whether you have available any information with regard to the cooking of wheat and wheat flour, the making of chuppatties, or other kinds of preparations of wheat and flour, etc.

"2. It is understood that many employers of labour throughout the country have been experimenting in the substitution of preparations of wheat and wheat flour for rice in the diet of their labour forces; and it is believed that the information to be obtained in this matter from those who have done so would prove of great value if collected and published in pamphlet form for the benefit of others.

"3. I should esteem it a very great favour if through the Secretaries of the various District Planters' Associations you would invite any of their members who have so experimented to give us the benefit of their experience, and communicate direct to me any information on the subject they may care to give.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) A. HUNTER,
"*Agent.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*26th July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 3 in 279/19, dated the 25th instant and have to inform you that the matter is receiving attention.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) C. WARD-JACKSON,
"*Secretary.*

"THE AGENT TO THE FOOD CONTROLLER,
"FEDERATED MALAY STATES,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

LETTER TO ALL CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS.

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*30th July, 1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"I send enclosed a copy of a letter received from the Agent to the Food Controller, Federated Malay States, and shall be obliged if you will bring it to the notice of the members of your Association whom please be good enough to ask to send all possible information direct to the Agent to the Food Controller, Kuala Lumpur.

"Believe me, etc.,
"(Sd.) C. WARD-JACKSON,
"*Secretary.*"

"THE FOOD CONTROLLER,
"*Singapore, 31st July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I have the honour to invite the good services of your Association in obtaining for me a full return of stocks of rice and padi held by the members.

"2. It is improbable that we shall be able to import any rice during the next few months beyond the amount already promised and it is absolutely vital therefore to ascertain as nearly as possible the present stocks at present in the country.

"3. I would ask you to be so good as to impress this on the estates and to ask them to furnish me as early as possible with a return on the form attached.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) W. PEEL,
"*Food Controller.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

.....Estate

.....

.....

.....1919.

TO THE FOOD CONTROLLER,
Singapore.

The following is the position of food-stuffs on this estate at the present date:

	Owned by estate.	Owned by individuals.
Siam rice —White		
,, —Broken		
Saigon rice —White		
,, —Broken		
Parboiled rice (all varieties) ...		
Paddy		

In addition the following crops are in course of cultivation:

.....nature of cultivation.

.....whether interplanted.

.....area.

.....estimated date of crop harvested.

Signed.....
Manager.

"RETURNS OF STOCKS OF RICE AND PADDY.

"KUALA LUMPUR.
"*5th August, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acknowledge your letter dated the 31st ultimo on the above subject which was sent to Mr. F. G. Harvey, Chairman of this Association.

"In reply, I am directed to inform you that copies of the letter under reference and the form of returns attached thereto are being circulated to each estate on our Roll of Membership; and that, as these forms are returned to me, they will be forwarded to you.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sd.) C. WARD-JACKSON,
"*Secretary.*

"THE FOOD CONTROLLER,
"SINGAPORE."

LETTER TO ALL ESTATE MANAGERS BELONGING TO THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA.

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*5th August, 1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"The following letter has been received from the Food Controller, Singapore; and since the matter is of extreme importance, the Chairman hopes that every member of this Association, without exception, will do his duty in this critical time to assist the Food Controller to the utmost of his ability.

"You are asked to be good enough to prepare a full return of your stocks of rice and padi, and to fill in the enclosed form, which please return to me at your earliest convenience.

"Believe me, etc.,

"(Sd.) C. WARD-JACKSON,
"*Secretary.*"

The SECRETARY places upon the table supplement to the *Government Gazette* dated the 1st of August regarding the maximum prices in the various districts of the Federated Malay States for Australian wheat flour.

Mr. BRUCE calls attention to a *Gazette* notification issued on 8th June in which planters were asked to send in returns of rice stocks in their possession, and explains that later another notification was issued to the effect that compensation would be paid on the loss caused by the sale of rice at the rate fixed by the Government. Compensation has been paid to wholesale and other dealers in rice, but planters have since been informed that compensation will not be paid to them. He thinks it unfair that planters, who make no profit on the sale of rice, should receive no compensation, while dealers and others who sell rice for the purpose of profit have been given compensation.

Mr. KENNEDY asks Mr. Bruce to frame a resolution on the matter.

Mr. BRUCE therefore proposes that this Association considers that planters and others who held stocks of rice on the 1st July, 1919, should be compensated at the same rate as wholesale dealers; and suggests that compensation be paid to planters at the same rate as to wholesale dealers.

Mr. GOOCH asks whether Government had refused to pay compensation, and understands that a refund was promised to be paid on 3rd July provided that evidences were given that stocks were held by planters. He himself had made a claim to Government for compensation but was not favoured with any reply.

Mr. SIMMONS says he also made application for a refund but was informed that no compensation would be paid.

Mr. JEAVONS reports a similar experience.

Mr. KINDERSLEY asks whether these applications were made in writing.

Messrs. BRUCE AND TIVY reply in the affirmative.

Mr. GORDON-BROWN asks whether specific claims for compensation were sent in, or whether a general enquiry was made.

Mr. GOOCH reads a letter he had received from the Assistant Under Secretary in the following terms:

"I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th July and to inform you that it is not proposed to pay any compensation to employers who held stocks of rice merely for their labour forces."

Mr. JEAVONS submits that if stocks had been taken away from estates for the benefit of the community, the estates should certainly be compensated.

Mr. KINDERSLEY says there is no suggestion that stocks had been taken from planters.

Mr. ARMSTRONG seconds Mr. Bruce's motion which is put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. BAILEY would like to enquire whether the Director of Food Production was aware of the state of some of the crops in certain districts. He presumes that the Director has detailed particulars of

acreages planted with food-stuffs but in some districts, owing to the drought, many food crops were practically total failures. He has 300 acres of ragi planted, but thinks he will be lucky if he obtains a good crop from 50 acres. He is aware that his own district, Ulu Selangor, has suffered very considerably from the drought and thinks it conceivable that other districts have suffered similarly and would say that if the Director of Food Production was relying upon local products he should not base his calculations upon the acreage planted, but should take steps to ascertain what produce he will be likely to get from each district.

Mr. KENNEDY thinks that this is a matter for the Director of Food Production himself.

Mr. BAILEY submits that the matter should be brought to the notice of the Director.

Mr. JEAVONS suggests that in districts where the crops are poorer than expected, the Director should be furnished with a statement of the facts.

Mr. KINDERSLEY thinks that in cases where the food crops are a failure, it would be simpler for members to inform the Director themselves. If all planters are required to send in returns it would mean a lot more filling in of circulars. He thinks that few planters would be in a position to give even a rough estimate of what they expected from their land. In cases of total failure, it would serve the purpose if Managers of estates would inform the Director. He refers to the estates controlled by himself and fears that anything like a definite statement of crops expected could not be given.

Mr. GOOCH agrees with Mr. Kindersley.

Mr. JEAVONS calls attention to the fact that various District Planters' Associations have formed sub-committees to deal with matters of Food Production and suggests that these Committees submit reports to the Director of Food Production periodically and give him information relating to the nature and progress of the crops.

Mr. BAILEY considers the food question to be a particularly serious one and does not think that conditions will improve during the next few months. He thinks the matter should not be left to individuals, and supports Mr. Jeavons' suggestion that every Association should forward a report to the Director of the crops in their district.

Mr. KINDERSLEY agrees with Mr. Bailey.

Mr. BENNETT suggests that replies should be sent to the Director of Food Production through the Planters' Association of Malaya.

Mr. KENNEDY would like to have these reports sent in in duplicate.

Mr. SIMMONS suggests that figures showing the Government's ration of rice for each month should be made known by means of circulars to each estate, and that these circulars be printed in Chinese and be signed by the Protector of Chinese.

Mr. BENNETT says he is not getting anything like a sufficient quantity to enable him to issue rice at the fixed ration of 4½ gantangs, since he is receiving rice only at the rate of 3 gantangs per cooly. He asks whether Mr. Simmons refers to Chinese only.

Mr. SIMMONS replies in the affirmative.

Mr. JEAVONS gives details of riots that have occurred recently near Kuala Lumpur, when the Manager of an estate had the greatest difficulty with the coolies on the question of rice. The Assistant Controller of Labour strongly supported the Manager in the action he had taken but when the offenders were brought before the Court, they were dealt with very leniently by the Magistrate. He is sure that coolies do not understand the necessity for economizing in using foodstuffs, and do not grasp the reason why rationing has been resorted to.

Mr. ARMSTRONG thinks that planters have done everything possible to assist the authorities during the food shortage, and feels that they should have the full support of the Courts in suppressing rioting when it occurs.

Mr. KENNEDY reads Mr. Simmons' resolution:

> "That circulars be sent to every estate each month stating the figure at which rationing had been fixed for that particular month; and that these circulars be printed in Chinese and be signed by the Protector of Chinese."

Mr. BENNETT thinks that if this carried out more harm than good would result and that if coolies saw notices announcing that they could obtain 4½ gantangs rice per month they would demand that quantity, and he is sure many estates have nothing like 4½ gantangs to issue to each cooly.

Mr. GOOCH asks if there is any guarantee that 4½ gantangs would be available? If no guarantee were given, he thinks that trouble during the next few months would be greater than it is now.

Mr. JEAVONS agrees with Mr. Gooch that it would be inadvisable to tell coolies that the Government would allow them 4 or 4½ gantangs because they would expect to get this amount.

Mr. SIMMONS observes that his motion refers only to Chinese and not to Tamils or other nationalities.

Mr. GRAY seconds Mr. Simmons' motion and it is put to the meeting, three voting in favour and a large majority against.

The motion is declared not carried.

Mr. KINDERSLEY suggests that the attention of the Director of Food Production should be drawn to this discussion as he might wish to take some steps in the matter.

Mr. BENNETT says unless the Government can guarantee to every estate the full ration quantity, whatever it may be, the figure should not be published in the *Gazette*, or in any other notice. At present estates were not getting anything like enough rice to enable them to issue full rations to their coolies.

5.—RAILWAY MATTERS.

The SECRETARY submits the following letter:

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*1st July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 3209 of 30th May which was considered at the last General Meeting of this Association when I was instructed to say that this Association considers it desirable that the pre-war Sunday Passenger Service be resumed as soon as the Railway Administration is able to do so.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,
"*Secretary.*

"UNDER SECRETARY,
"FEDERATED MALAY STATES,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

The SECRETARY explains that no reply has been received to this letter and is instructed to endeavour to obtain a reply.

6.—KUALA SELANGOR FLOODS.

The SECRETARY submits the following letter:

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"No. 3453/19. "*26th June, 1919.*

"SIR,

"With reference to your letter of 20th May, 1919, I am directed to inform you that the Chief Secretary understands that the Government of Selangor is fully alive to the importance of remedying the flooding of the Kuala Selangor-Rawang Road between the 33rd and 42nd miles, and that after detailed investigations and observations had been made and taken, a full report on the question has been prepared by the Public Works Department.

"2. The Selangor Government proposes to apply for provision to undertake next year the remedial measures recommended in the report and it is hoped to put in hand certain preliminary works in the current year.

"I have, etc.,
"(Sd.) S. MCARTHUR,
"*Under Secretary to Government, F.M.S.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

Mr. KENNEDY mentions it is satisfactory that the Government has taken this matter in hand.

7.—SMALL CHANGE.

The SECRETARY reads the following correspondence:

"KUALA LUMPUR,

"No. 4007/19. "*5th July, 1919.*

"SIR,

"I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 30th June, 1919, in which you ask that the Treasurer, Federated Malay States, be given permission to give his views as to the scarcity of small change.

"2. The Chief Secretary regrets that he does not feel able to authorize the Treasurer to give his views on this matter in this way, but if your Association has any definite complaints or inquiries to make on the subject and will communicate them to this office, the Chief Secretary will endeavour to have them dealt with and will cause a reply to be sent to you.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sd.) S. MCARTHUR,

"*Under Secretary to Government, F.M.S.*

"THE SECRETARY,

"PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,

"KUALA LUMPUR."

Mr. KENNEDY observes that the Chief Secretary promises in this letter to deal with any definite complaints or enquiries on the subject.

Mr. JEAVONS asks if a question could not be asked regarding the refusal to accept 10-cent notes, which is becoming very common.

Mr. KENNEDY replies in the affirmative.

Mr. JEAVONS thinks that some procedure might be adopted in order to bring to the notice of the Government the almost general refusal to accept 10-cent notes which was aggravating the trouble caused by the shortage of small change.

Mr. ARMSTRONG proposes that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Government and ask when the shortage of 10 and 25-cent notes would cease.

Mr. JEAVONS seconds the proposal, and would like to point out that even the banks refuse to accept 10-cent notes. After scrutinizing them very carefully they returned about two-thirds of them.

Mr. GOOCH observes that a certain post office refused to accept in payment for a telegram the very 10-cent notes he had obtained in change at the same counter a few minutes before on the ground that the notes were bad.

The Secretary is instructed to address the Government on the matter.

8.—THE MALAYA ASSOCIATION.

The SECRETARY reads the following letter:

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*1st July, 1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"I beg to inform you that at the last General Meeting of this Association held on the 25th ultimo the new draft rules were approved of with the exception of Rule 4 in the case of which this Association proposes the substitution of "35" for "28."

"Believe me, etc.,
"(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,
"*Secretary.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"UNITED MALAYA COUNCIL,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

and says no reply had been received.

Mr. KENNEDY says the Association has to appoint five delegates, but is awaiting official information from the Malaya Association before doing so.

9.—THE SECRETARY.

The SECRETARY submits the following circular letter:

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*15th July, 1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"As you are aware, Mr. Zacharias has resigned the Secretaryship of the Planters' Association of Malaya after an unexampled record of devoted service, and intends shortly to leave the country.

"We would say at the outset that Mr. Zacharias' impending departure is unfortunately in no sense a retirement such as his many years of active work might justly entitle him to have anticipated, but is dictated purely by private reasons.

"As it is probable that many of the younger members of the planting community are not fully conversant with Mr. Zacharias' unbroken and invaluable connection with the planting industry in Malaya, it may not be out of place to furnish a brief record.

"Mr. Zacharias undertook the duties of Secretary of the 'United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States' on 1st February, 1904, and on that body becoming the 'United Planters' Association of the Malay Peninsula' early in 1907, he was unanimously appointed to the same office. On 1st December of that year, that Association became the 'Planters' Association of Malaya,' and each year since has seen a unanimity of support in continuing Mr. Zacharias in office as Secretary that testifies to well-merited confidence in his abilities.

"We feel it is hardly necessary to emphasize the immense value of the services which Mr. Zacharias has rendered to the planting industry—an industry which has rapidly risen to such world-wide importance and these services have been far beyond the demands of bare secretarial work.

"It is felt therefore that no more fitting and practical appreciation of the 15½ years' continuous service (during which time Mr. Zacharias has had only six months' leave in 1911) could be shown than by the presentation of a purse from the planters. To this every planter can contribute and we would therefore cordially invite you to send a cheque at as early a date as possible to Mr. F. G. Harvey, Petaling, Selangor, who is willing to receive and acknowledge subscriptions.

"F. G. HARVEY.
"V. A. TAYLER.
"L. MOOIJAART.

.....*1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"Attached please find my cheque $.....being my subscription towards the purse to be presented to Mr. Zacharias as an appreciation of his services as Secretary of the Planters' Association of Malaya.

"Yours faithfully,

"F. G. HARVEY, ESQ.,
"PETALING."

Mr. KENNEDY announces that up to date $1,800 have been received in subscriptions towards the purse to be presented to Mr. Zacharias on the occasion of his retirement from Malaya. He states there are still a number of forms to be returned to Mr. Harvey and that in addition to the subscriptions from individuals, the Association has given to Mr. Zacharias the equivalent of six months' full pay which made a total of $3,600.

He announces that the Standing Committee have appointed Mr. C. Ward-Jackson to be Secretary, and Mr. J. Fraser Brown to to be Treasurer.

10.—DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

Mr. GRABURN, on behalf of the Batang Padang District Planters' Association, invites the Association to hold its next meeting at Sungkai.

Mr. FORSYTH endorses Mr. Graburn's invitation.

Mr. KENNEDY, on behalf of the Malay Peninsula Agricultural Association, extends an invitation to the delegates to meet at Penang. He puts the matter to the meeting and it is carried that the next meeting be held in Penang on the last Monday in October.

The next meeting is accordingly fixed for 27th October at Penang.

11.—GENERAL.

The SECRETARY reads the following letter from the Local Secretary of the Rubber Growers' Association:

"KUALA LUMPUR,
"*25th August, 1919.*

"DEAR SIR,

"At a meeting of the Local Committee of this Association held on the 22nd instant, I was instructed to direct your attention to the following:

(*a*) That a letter from the London Secretary was addressed to the Local Secretary giving an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Borneo Chamber of Commerce held on the 21st December last, regarding the condition of hospitals, etc., in British North Borneo, in the form of a resolution.

(*b*) That this letter was forwarded to the Local Secretary for the information of the Local Committee, and not with a view to publication.

(*c*) That this letter was read at the Annual General Meeting of your Association held on the 30th April last, and was published in full on pages 21 and 22 in the minutes thereof.

"I have to inform you that there was no foundation or justification in substance or fact for the strictures contained in the resolution under reference, and that the Borneo Chamber of Commerce which passed it, duly withdrew the charges and apologized for having made them.

"Having regard to the fact that the publication of the letter containing the resolution passed by the Borneo Chamber of Commerce was entirely unauthorized, I am directed to request you to bring to the notice of your Association at its next meeting the facts stated herein with a view to removing the erroneous impression and annoyance which have been created.

"Believe me, etc.,
"Yours faithfully,
"(Sd.) C. WARD-JACKSON,
"*Local Secretary.*

"THE SECRETARY,
"THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,
"KUALA LUMPUR."

Mr. KENNEDY explains that the resolution passed by the Borneo Chamber of Commerce regarding the condition of estate hospitals in Borneo had been read at the last Annual Meeting and subsequently published in the minutes thereof, inadvertently, and in the circumstances thinks it is due to the Government of British North Borneo that this Association should fully and freely apologize for having given publication to the resolution. He would therefore propose "that this Association presents its apologies to the North Borneo

Company for having inadvertently, through a secretarial error, given publication to the resolution passed by the Borneo Chamber of Commerce containing statements for which there was no foundation or justification regarding the condition of Government hospitals in the State of Borneo; and that it expresses its extreme regret for any erroneous impression or annoyance which the said publication has caused."

Mr. GORDON-BROWN hopes that it will be made quite clear that the matter had been published purely by a mistake.

Mr. TIVY seconds the resolution, and it is carried.

NIGHT TELEPHONES.

Mr. WIGGINS would like to be informed why the subject of Night Telephones had not been placed on the agenda of the meeting. He explains that at the last Annual General Meeting it was agreed that the subject should come up again four months from that date. The Secretary of the Kajang District Planters' Association therefore wrote to the Secretary, Planters' Association of Malaya, asking for this to be put up on the agenda, and in reply was informed that the Standing Committee had obtained a ruling to the effect that the subject should not come up for discussion until 1920. He was instructed to enquire whether the Standing Committee had power to override what the Association in General Meeting had agreed to.

Mr. KINDERSLEY says he himself brought up the matter of a Night Telephone service before the Federal Council and that the matter has already received public attention. He thinks that the only reason why the Standing Committee decided that it would be better not to discuss the subject for the present was because no useful purpose would be served thereby as nothing fresh had been brought forward. He does not think the Standing Committee is in any way antagonistic to the proposal.

Mr. JEAVONS says an important principle is involved, and would ask for a ruling as to whether the Standing Committee has power to refuse to place upon the agenda of the Planters' Association of Malaya anything that a Constituent Association wishes to be included.

Mr. BENNETT avers that the matter is due to a misunderstanding.

Mr. JEAVONS repeats his question as to whether the Standing Committee was justified in the action it had taken, and explains that it is only a matter of principle.

Mr. KENNEDY expresses the opinion that the action of the Standing Committee in this matter was *ultra vires*, since it is not within the power of the Standing Committee to rule out anything put on the agenda provided due and proper notice is given.

Mr. JEAVONS suggests in the circumstances that the Standing Committee should apologize to the Kajang District Planters' Association.

Mr. BURN-MURDOCH thinks if it is put to the Kajang District Planters' Association that a misunderstanding occurred that body would accept the explanation.

Mr. Gordon-Brown has felt for a long time that the work of the Planters' Association of Malaya was very cumbersome and slow. In the opinion of the Central Perak Planters' Association this is due to having an exceedingly large membership on the executive. Those present are the executive who authorize the Standing Committee to act for them on any specific matter. The Standing Committee could do nothing without first having their mandate. This means that the Association has to meet once every two months while the Standing Committee meet at shorter intervals. At these meetings much time is wasted splitting hairs and wandering up side-tracks. At Committee Meetings very often merely routine work is done. Having no executive power, matters which reach a certain point have to be hung up until the next Delegates' Meeting. Thus it is becoming common that the agenda of Planters' Association of Malaya Meetings are "hardy annuals." These frequent Delegates' Meetings put Constituent Associations to considerable expense in defraying the expenses of delegates, whilst the Planters' Association of Malaya has also to pay the expenses of the Standing Committee. This year the subscriptions to the Planters' Association of Malaya have been increased and the Malay Peninsula Agricultural Association has delivered an ultimatum since they have reached the limit of what they could afford to pay to the Planters' Association of Malaya. Time, too, has to be considered. In order to attend a meeting of the Standing Committee, or the Association, the best part of three days is taken up; and with, say, three meetings in two months the cost to him is nine days which he thinks is too great a call upon anyone. To remedy this waste of time and money the Central Perak Planters' Association has put forward the following resolution which was carried at a General Meeting of that body:

"(*a*) that the Standing Committee be more representative and be granted more executive power;

"(*b*) that the Committee be elected by the delegates of each District Planters' Association;

"(*c*) that the Committee be only called together to transact business affecting each associated District Planters' Association;

"(*d*) that there be fewer delegate meetings."

He does not think this resolution covers every point; but the subject will be carefully considered by the Standing Committee before alterations of so drastic a nature are submitted to the Association. One point he would like to make is that the proposed new Standing Committee should have plenary powers, and have not a large membership, because the fewer the members the more work there will be accomplished.

Mr. Kennedy has great pleasure in supporting everything Mr. Gordon-Brown had said. He has thought for some considerable time that the work of the Association could be done more effectively. At a meeting of the Standing Committee held the previous day it was decided to call a special meeting to discuss the matter with a view to drawing up a definite scheme to put before the next meeting of the Association. He does not think any good will be done by discussing the matter at present and feels that it would be better if the Association wait until the proposals of the Standing Committee are put before them.

Mr. JEAVONS fears that a small executive will prove unsuitable as its members could not be conversant with the views of, say, questions affecting all District Associations. He does not see how a big united association of planters could possibly be run by four or five men, however worthy. He too would prefer to see fewer Delegate Meetings, but a very much bigger Standing Committee which might be so constituted that every district would have representatives on it.

Mr. KENNEDY says he has already outlined a scheme and his idea is roughly to have two General Meetings a year and to form a Council or governing body of say 20 members, four from Perak, four from Selangor, four from Negri Sembilan, two from Province Wellesley, two from Malacca, two from Johore, one from Kedah and one from Pahang.

His idea is to give to that Council full power to transact the ordinary business of the Association and to hold a General Meeting at which the Council would be elected and at which members would have an opportunity of being informed as to what had been done during the preceding the six months, and of asking questions and seeking information.

Mr. JEAVONS does not think anything should be done to try to prevent District Planters' Associations from applying to the parent body for advice or help.

Mr. KENNEDY explains that under the scheme referred to the interests of Constituent and Affiliated Associations would not suffer.

Mr. JEAVONS promises that the scheme as outlined by Mr. Kennedy will certainly have his support after being considered by the Association.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminates at 12.20 p.m.

C. WARD-JACKSON,
Secretary.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

Comparative Statement of Cultivated Rubber Exported, with Value and Duty Collected thereon, during the Years 1918 and 1919.

Destination.	Exported during May, 1919.	Previously.	Total export to date, 1919.	Export during similar period of previous year.	Increase.	Decrease.	Value of rubber exported to date, 1919.	Value of rubber exported during similar period of previous year.	Duty collected to date, 1919.	Duty collected during similar period of previous year.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	$	$	$ c.	$ c.
Straits Settlements...	6,131.55	29,748.86	35,880.41	32,576.68	3,303.73	...	59,132,208	57,655,868		
United Kingdom ...	1,105.32	6,360.05	7,465.37	2,105.70	5,359.67	...	12,389,849	3,869,972		
Continent of Europe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,772,688.34	2,535,366.39
Ceylon	71.26	205.68	276.94	208.32	68.62	...	463,078	386,567		
Other Countries ...	...	...	...	505.18	...	505.18	...	936,365		
Total ...	7,308.13	36,314.59	43,622.72	35,395.88	8,732.02	505.18	71,985,135	62,848,772	2,772,688.34	2,535,366.39

KUALA LUMPUR,
20th June, 1919.

E. BURNSIDE,
Commissioner, Trade and Customs, F.M.S.

TABLE I.

Agricultural Acreages, Federated Malay States, 1917 and 1918, excluding Padi and Horticulture, from Estates over 100 acres in extent.

	Selangor.		Perak.		Negri Sembilan.		Pahang.		Total.	
	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918
Coconuts	22,939	27,562	37,571	38,084	2,176	2,260	2,902	2,962	65,588	70,868
Rubber	254,091	271,593	210,820	219,481	141,886	165,199	14,825	15,833	621,622	672,106
Coffee	1,622	1,215	1,193	62	7	9	...	15	2,822	1,301
Other cultivations	587	1,288	1,891	2,303	1,337	645	9	329	3,824	4,565
Total ...	279,239	301,658	251,475	259,930	145,406	168,113	17,736	19,139	693,856	748,840

TABLE II.

Agricultural Acreages, Malaya, 1918, from Estates over 100 acres in extent.

	Federated Malay States.	Straits Settlements.	Johore.	Kelantan, Kedah and Trengganu.	Grand Total.
Rubber Alone	660,020	163,514	164,280	109,237	1,097,051
„ and Coffee	423	...	55	170	648
„ and Coconuts	1,980	43	...	...	2,023
„ with other crops	9,683	4,232	1,781	8,825	24,521
Total ...	672,106	167,789	166,116	118,232	1,124,243
Coconuts alone	68,570	24,011	2,212	14,904	109,697
„ and Coffee	735	160	...	...	895
„ with other crops exclusive of Coffee ...	1,563	432	17	303	2,315
Total ...	70,868	24,603	2,229	15,207	112,907
Coffee alone	143	...	...	...	143
„ with other crops	1,158	...	...	...	1,158
Total ...	1,301	...	...	...	1,301

TABLE III.

Rubber Statistics, Federated Malay States, up to 31st December, 1917 and 1918, from Estates over 100 acres in extent.

	Selangor.		Perak.		Negri Sembilan.		Pahang.		Total.	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.
No. of Estates	364	382	393	417	218	270	49	57	1,024	1,126
Acreage in possession ...	391,793	408,639	364,728	375,601	241,523	256,068	46,795	53,909	1,044,839	1,094,217
Acreage planted up to 31st December, 1917 and 1918 ...	254,091	271,593	210,820	219,481	141,886	165,199	14,825	15,833	621,622	672,106
Rubber alone	251,665	268,179	206,855	215,595	139,018	160,569	14,730	15,677	612,268	660,020
Rubber interplanted with catch crops	2,426	3,414	3,965	3,886	2,868	4,630	95	156	9,354	12,086
Acreage producing	171,763	189,065	146,382	161,010	83,097	89,164	7,332	7,936	408,574	447,175
Planted during 1917 and 1918	25,000	17,502	19,491	8,661	22,736	23,313	2,436	1,008	69,663	50,484

TABLE IV.

Rubber Statistics, Malaya, up to 31st December, 1917 and 1918, from Estates over 100 acres in extent.

	Federated Malay States.		Johore.		Kelantan, Kedah and Trengganu.		Straits Settlements.		Total.	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918
No. of Estates	1,024	1,126	150	148	191	192	269	248	1,634	1,714
Acreage in possession	1,044,839	1,094,217	362,209	363,688	250,455	253,442	251,490	266,743	1,908,993	1,978,090
Acreage planted up to 31st December, 1917 and 1918 ...	621,622	672,106	162,375	166,116	108,634	118,232	153,189	167,789	1,045,820	1,124,243
Rubber alone	612,268	660,020	160,954	164,280	103,090	109,237	150,048	163,514	1,026,360	1,097,051
Rubber interplanted with catch crops	9,354	12,086	1,421	1,836	5,544	8,995	3,141	4,275	19,460	27,192
Acreage producing	408,574	447,175	84,690	89,945	41,122	46,776	98,543	107,539	632,929	691,435
Planted during 1917 and 1918 ...	69,663	50,484	8,684	3,741	7,553	9,598	8,050	14,600	93,950	78,423

TABLE V.

Comparative Table of Rubber Crops, Malaya, 1909 to 1918.

State.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.	Tons Cwt.
Selangor	1,641 5	3,148 13	5,106 14	7,482 6	10,110 15	12,601 6	16,061 11	19,996 11	24,573 3	26,464 11
Perak	473 9	1,322 8	2,697 4	4,116 18	6,623 17	8,959 7	12,112 1	17,336 18	19,453 2	21,331 18
Negri Sembilan ...	601 2	1,160 12	1,918 12	2,518 16	3,339 16	4,203 18	8,138 1	8,596 14	12,223 3	13,542 4
Pahang	...	1 2	13 18	74 14	155 9	337 19	548 13	682 8	1,010 13	1,179 3
Johore	146 5	296 12	404 2	968 6	1,645 7	2,861 7	4,711 2	6,840 7	8,193 7	11,267 12
Kelantan, Kedah and Trengganu ...	...	18 11	23 0	79 6	246 18	1,383 18	1,955 0	3,704 19	4,729 2	5,568 6
Malacca	16 9	267 16	382 11	1,742 6	3,549 2	3,979 16	5,181 1	6,606 12	7,376 16	7,721 19
Province Wellesley *	131 1	198 19	571 15	1,973 16	2,498 12	3,076 8	3,177 11	3,912 11	4,760 1	5,203 15
Total ...	3,009 11	6,414 13	11,117 16	18,956 8	28,169 16	37,403 19	51,885 0	67,677 0	82,319 7	92,279 8

* Including Singapore, Penang and Dindings.

TABLE VI.

Estate Labour, Federated Malay States, 1918, from Estates over 100 acres in extent.

	Selangor.	Perak.	Negri Sembilan.	Pahang.	Total
Tamil men	52,006	47,467	10,225	1,407	111,105
„ women	18,496	15,158	2,758	230	36,642
„ children	7,582	3,887	670	46	12,185
Javanese men	2,608	2,714	1,085	1,300	7,707
„ women	160	1,448	206	413	2,227
Malays	1,407	6,311	2,518	391	10,627
Chinese	15,381	14,272	25,661	2,015	57,329
Others	603	906	568	77	2,154
Total ...	98,243	92,163	43,691	5,879	239,976

TABLE VII.

Estate Labour, Malaya, 1918, from Estates over 100 acres in extent.

	Federated Malay States.	Johore.	Kelantan, Kedah and Trengganu.	Straits Settlements.	Total.
Tamil men	111,105	9,685	7,934	18,661	147,385
„ women	36,642	1,843	2,457	5,658	46,600
„ children	12,185	637	965	2,256	16,043
Javanese men	7,707	5,990	1,213	2,557	17,467
„ women	2,227	762	170	912	4,071
Malays	10,627	4,200	11,283	5,279	31,389
Chinese	57,329	16,960	14,086	12,970	101,345
Others	2,154	639	569	902	4,264
Total ...	239,976	40,716	38,677	49,195	368,564

Abstract of Meteorological Readings in the various Districts of Malaya for the month of June, 1919.

District.	Mean Barometrical Pressure at 32° Fah.	Maximum in Sun.	Temperature.				Hygrometer.				Prevailing Direction of Winds.	Total Rainfall.	Greatest Rainfall during 24 hours.
			Mean Dry Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Range.	Mean Wet Bulb.	Vapour Tension.	Dew Point.	Humidity.			
Kelantan, Kota Bahru	...	142.0	83.1	91.93	74.90	17.03	77.4	.826	73.5	73.	...	2.86	.90
Pahang, Kuala Lipis	...	...	82.31	90.7	72.23	18.46	76.52	...	...	...	...	4.48	1.34
Johore, Johore Bahru	...	...	...	89.46	74.60	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.58	.69
Singapore, Kandang Kerbau ...	29.790	157.0	85.4.	89.6	76.5	13.1	79.6	.929	...	76.	S.W.	4.08	1.53
Malacca, Durian Daun ...	29.833	144.0	83.	89.0	74.	15.0	78.	.956	...	83.	N.E.	9.05	3.86
Negri Sembilan, Seremban ...	...	155.9	81.1	91.4	71.5	19.9	78.5	.927	74.8	87.2	N.E.	4.37	.90
„ Kuala Pilah ...	...	139.3	81.6	89.2	79.3	9.9	76.9	.711	71.3	82.8	...	2.99	1.95
„ Port Dickson...	...	121.4	83.6	89.6	74.9	14.7	78.2	.854	74.7	73.6	...	8.92	1.55
Selangor, Kuala Lumpur ...	29.865	111.9	85.2	89.3	73.0	16.3	75.1	.711	68.5	61.	S.W.	1.58	1.12
„ Klang	...	...	83.0	87.2	76.3	10.9	...	...	...	...	...	1.55	1.26
„ Kuala Selangor ...	...	...	...	90.5	76.3	14.2	...	...	...	...	...	.74	.31
„ Rawang	...	...	...	89.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.96	.96
Perak, Telok Anson	...	...	84.89	95.	72.	23.	78.88	.903	...	75.	...	1.37	1.29
„ Ipoh	...	...	84.87	96.	71.	25.	78.02	.869	75.14	74.	...	.51	.19
„ Taiping	...	112.0	84.62	95.	71.	24.	79.22	.927	...	79.	...	1.28	1.02
„ The Cottage													
„ Parit Buntar	...	...	83.18	94.	70.	24.	78.17	.896	...	79.	...	2.71	2.00
Penang, George Town	29.818	146.0	82.4	91.3	72.7	18.6	76.0	.914	69.6	81.5	N.E.	4.39	2.84
Kedah, Alor Star	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.00	2.23
Perlis, Kangar	...	...	...	90.46	74.70	15.76	...	...	...	...	...	4.43	2.97

Abstract of Meteorological Readings in the various Districts of Malaya for the month of July, 1919.

District.	Mean Barometrical Pressure at 32° Fah.	Maximum in Sun.	Temperature.				Hygrometer.				Prevailing Direction of Winds.	Total Rainfall.	Greatest Rainfall during 24 hours.
			Mean Dry Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Range.	Mean Wet Bulb.	Vapour Tension.	Dew Point.	Humidity.			
Kelantan, Kota Bahru	...	143.85	82.8	91.96	74.29	17.67	76.8	.807	72.8	71.	...	2.36	.78
Pahang, Kuala Lipis	...	...	81.33	90.25	74.12	16.13	76.06	...	...	...	...	5.19	2.17
Johore, Johore Bahru	...	...	...	87.22	73.75	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.51	.92
Singapore, Kandang Kerbau ...	29.788	155.0	82.3	87.7	75.2	...	77.8	.874	...	77.	S.W.	10.80	2.21
Malacca, Durian Daun	29.834	143.0	81.	88.	72.	16.	77.	1.008	...	83.	N.E.	9.33	1.96
Negri Sembilan, Seremban ...	...	155.5	81.3	89.5	73.1	16.4	77.4	.815	78.4	84.2	N.E.	5.66	1.92
,, Kuala Pilah ...	...	145.1	81.3	89.8	...	...	76.9	.836	72.4	76.8	...	3.76	.66
,, Port Dickson...	...	105.8	82.6	88.7	74.1	14.6	77.5	.854	74.3	76.9	...	5.21	2.04
Selangor, Kuala Lumpur ...	29.826	110.5	83.3	90.2	72.2	18.0	80.3	.813	73.0	73.	N.E.	3.23	.88
,, Klang	...	...	81.5	86.0	74.8	11.2	76.8	...	...	...	...	4.41	1.79
,, Kuala Selangor ...	...	...	...	89.4	74.8	14.6	...	...	...	...	...	3.16	1.63
,, Rawang	...	...	...	95.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.96	1.89
Perak, Telok Anson	...	...	82.70	93.	71.	22.	77.59	.876	...	79.	...	4.76	2.20
,, Ipoh	...	...	82.79	95.	70.	25.	76.82	.848	...	77.	...	6.69	2.71
,, Taiping	...	111.	81.71	93.	69.	24.	78.06	.912	...	85.	...	6.72	1.88
,, The Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.36	2.77
,, Parit Buntar	...	...	82.67	93.	72.	21.	77.53	.876	...	79.	...	4.09	1.73
Penang, Georgetown	29.802	147.	81.8	92.5	72.9	19.6	77.7	.881	64.6	79.9	S.E.	5.51	1.49
Kedah, Alor Star	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.44	1.30
Perlis, Kangar	...	...	...	89.22	73.84	15.38	...	...	...	...	...	6.45	3.50